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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

US President Donald Trump urges his fellow Republicans in Congress to vote for release of files related to late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, reversing his earlier resistance to such a move, **PAGE OPP**

POK-origin UK home secretary Shabana Mahmood announces that Trump-style visa bans will be imposed on countries unless they accept return of criminals and illegal immigrants, **PAGE OPP**

Skipper Shubman Gill has been discharged from hospital following his neck spasm but is unlikely to feature in 2nd Test against SA, with Cricket Association of Bengal sources confirming he's not travelling to Guwahati, **P 21**

Jannik Sinner retains his Nitto ATP Finals crown, overcoming arch-rival Carlos Alcaraz 7-6(4), 7-5 in a gripping final at Turin's Inalpi Arena, **P 20**

Sonbhadra mine collapse toll now rises to 6

Six labourers were confirmed dead in Billi Markundi stone mine in UP's Sonbhadra after rescuers clawed into fractured slopes and pulled out five more bodies from the rubble Monday, two days after a section of the open-cast pit collapsed. **P 19**

PTI

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar submits a letter recommending dissolution of the current govt to governor Arif Mohammed Khan in Patna on Monday | **P 14**

Cops rape gang-rape survivor, suspended

Two sub-inspectors in Bulandshahr were suspended after a gang-rape survivor alleged that they raped her for two days and extorted Rs 50,000, saying it was needed to take action against her assaulters. **P 19**

Speeding DTC bus kills 55-yr-old man

A man (55) struck by a speeding DTC bus in Delhi's Chhawla on Saturday has died. A case has been registered against the driver, who fled the scene, for rash driving and causing death due to negligence. **P 6**

Govt docs in Jaipur quit over pvt practice

Superintendents of 12 hospitals attached to SMS Medical College in Jaipur resigned Monday in protest against new rules that ban them from private practice, prompting health minister G S Khimsar to invite them for talks within an hour of resignations. After the first meet failed, Khimsar announced a second meet on Tuesday. **P 16**

Forest officer held for killing wife, 2 kids

Probe into the recovery of the bodies of a Gujarat forest officer's wife and their two kids from a pit uncovered a crime of premeditated murders. Assistant conservator of forest Shailesh Khambhla was arrested on Monday. TNN

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Read more on Page 6

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BJP stays entry of neta it accused in Palghar lynching

Less than 24 hours after it welcomed ex-NCP (SP) neta Kashinath Choudhary, whom it had accused of being involved in the 2020 mob lynching of two sadhus in Palghar, BJP did a U-turn and suspended his entry. NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar flagged Choudhary's induction by BJP's Palghar unit on Sunday and questioned the party's hypocrisy.

BJP first went on the defensive, but by Monday afternoon, state BJP president Ravindra Chavan issued a letter to Palghar unit head, staying Choudhary's induction. "Considering the sensitivity of the matter, Choudhary's entry is being stayed." **P 16**

Death penalty for Hasina, Dhaka wants her back

India: 'We Will Engage With All Stakeholders'

Sachin.Parashar
@timesofindia.com

'USED LETHAL FORCE AGAINST AGITATORS'

- Ousted PM **Sheikh Hasina, 78, and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan found guilty** of ordering lethal force against student-led protesters in July-Aug 2024, killing hundreds
- **Proved Hasina orchestrated crackdown,** says tribunal. Hasina says she and Khan 'were trying to minimise loss of life'
- **Former IG** Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who turned state witness, sentenced to **5 years in jail**
- **Hasina cannot appeal** the verdict unless she surrenders or is arrested within 30 days
- In the public eye since the assassination of her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, Hasina **first became PM in 1996**
- Protests led to her ouster less than seven months into her fifth term as PM

"In their **distasteful call for the death penalty,** they reveal the **brazen and murderous intent of extremist figures** within the interim govt to remove Bangladesh's last elected PM... —Sheikh Hasina

New Delhi: Former Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina was sentenced to death in absentia Monday for the violent 2024 student crackdown by a special tribunal in a verdict that she described as a foregone conclusion. Chief adviser Muhammad Yunus hailed the verdict, saying no one is above the law.

▶ **EDIT PAGE: Revenge Trial/Dhaka's War Within**

Hasina had told **TOI** earlier the tribunal was a deflection tactic by political adversaries.

India responded to Hasina's sentencing with caution, saying it had taken note of the verdict of the 'International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh', and, as a close neighbour, remained committed to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh, including in peace, democracy, inclusion and stability in that country.

"We will always engage constructively with all stakeholders to that end," said the external affairs ministry, giving nothing away on **Dhaka's renewal of its demand, immediately after the sentencing, to extradite the deposed PM** who remains in India.

▶**Related report, PG OPP**

45 Indians on pilgrimage to Mecca die after bus collides with oil tanker

Driver, Pilgrim Next To Him Break Window To Escape

TNN & AGENCIES

Eighteen members of a family were among at least 45 Umrah pilgrims from Hyderabad charred early Monday in a bus inferno triggered by a highway collision with a fuel tanker while travelling from Mecca to Medina in Saudi Arabia. Mohammed Shoeb, the lone pilgrim to survive, escaped because he was seated beside the driver when the bus burst into flames after ramming into the tanker around 1.30am (11pm IST). Both men broke through a window and jumped.

Hyderabad police commissioner V C Sajjanar said the 46 passengers were part of a 54-member group that flew from the city to Saudi Arabia on Nov 9. They were to return on Nov 23 after visiting Islam's holiest site. "Four members of the group hired a car to travel to Medina after completing Umrah rituals. Another four stayed back in Mecca," Sajjanar said.

The victims include 22 women and 11 children. Shoeb, whose brother also travelled to Saudi Arabia for the pilgrimage but wasn't on the bus, remains in intensive care at Saudi German Hospital with injuries to his arms and legs.

"I spoke to Shoeb. Going by what he said, some passengers were asleep during the crash. He was lucky to be in the cabin with the driver," his sibling, Mohammed Sameer, told **TOI** over phone.

▶**T'gana team to Saudi, P 22**

PROVIDENCE SAVES 2 BROTHERS

- 46 pilgrims were in bus, which was coming from Mecca. Collision happened about **25km from Medina**
- **Delay in visa processing saved Mohammed Sameer.** His brother Shoeb, who jumped out of bus window, lone pilgrim to survive accident that killed their parents
- 2 members of each family would be flown to Saudi, T'gana govt says

Photo: PTI

T'gana minister Azharuddin consoles a victim's relative

"Deeply saddened by the accident in Medinah involving Indian nationals. My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones. I pray for the swift recovery of all those injured —PM Modi

3 generations among 18 of family that died

Eighteen members of the extended Shaik family spanning three generations — 11 who lived in a three-storey home in Hyderabad and seven visiting relatives — perished in the accident, erasing an entire branch of the family in moments. The oldest, patriarch Naseeruddin Shaik, was 70, while the youngest was his youngest grandchild, 2-year-old Mohammad Shazain Ahmed, **reports Amisha Rajani**.

Only one immediate member survives: Naseeruddin's son Siraj Shaik. The Shaiks had been part of their locality's fabric for nearly a decade, settling there after Naseeruddin's retirement. "(Naseeruddin's other son) Salahuddin was like my own brother," Sharif, a close friend said. **P 22**

Module was planning Hamas-style attacks using drones: NIA probe

Rajshekhar.Jha@timesofindia.com

RED FORT BLAST TOLL RISES TO 15

- **With one more victim succumbing to injuries,** toll in Red Fort blast has now risen to 15
- **NIA arrests Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish,** a suspect from Anantnag, calling him a key **aide of suicide bomber Umar Un Nabi (in photo)**
- **A line of inquiry is on to find out if Umar operated as a 'shoe bomber',** after a shoe with a metallic substance and traces of explosives TATP were found at blast site
- **Hamood Ahmad Siddiqui (50), younger brother of Al-Falah Univ chancellor** Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui, linked to blast probe, **has been arrested by MP police from Hyderabad** in 25-year-old fraud cases, say officials
- **MCD's 'revised policy will empower attendants to inspect vehicles that raise suspicion'.** 'Members also stressed need to set a time limit for vehicles to be at lots,' says MCD's remunerative & project cell head Pramod Gupta

New Delhi: Intensifying its probe into the Red Fort suicide bombing, NIA on Monday arrested another Kashmiri resident in the case and revealed that the module was planning to carry out Hamas-style terror attacks using drones. The Jaish module was also in the process of making small rockets that were to be used in the serial blasts planned by the group.

The second suspect has been identified as Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish, a resident of Qazigund in Anantnag district in J&K. **TOI** had reported on Monday that he was detained and being interrogated. Calling him a key associate of suicide bomber Umar, NIA said that Danish was arrested from Srinagar by its team that was in the Valley to probe the case.

"NIA's investigation has revealed that Wani had provided technical support for carrying out terror attacks by modifying drones and attempting to make rockets ahead of the deadly car bomb blast," the probe agency said in a statement.

The drones were to be equipped with a camera and battery. Small but powerful bombs were supposed to be fitted in them for triggering blasts at crowded places but the sinister plan was foiled as the module was busted. Such attacks are carried out by terror groups like Hamas & IS in Syria, Iraq, Israel & Afghanistan, and attempts were being made to replicate that model here, sources said.

▶ **'Shoe bomber' angle, P 4**

Indian students on US campuses up 10% in '24-25

In 2024-25, India remained the largest source of international students in the US, with 3,63,019 registered on American campuses — a 10% rise over last year. However, the rise is slower than 2023–24's 23% jump.

Tougher visa scrutiny, longer appointment queues and jitters over work-visa routes have done little to dent India's contingent. China continued to slide for fifth year in a row, this time by 4% to touch 2,65,919 students, **report Hemali Chhapia & Manash Pratim Gohain.** **P 10**

Oil PSUs ink deal to buy 2.2m tonnes, 10% of India's LPG imports, from US

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Washington: State-run oil companies have signed a one-year deal to buy 2.2m tonnes of cooking gas from the US, about 10% of India's LPG imports. It's expected to help cut the trade imbalance, a key complaint of the Trump administration.

"A historic first! One of the largest and the world's fastest growing liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) market opens up to the US. In our endeavour to provide secure affordable supplies of LPG to the people of India, we have been diversifying our LPG sourcing," petroleum minister Hardeep Puri posted on X. The gas will be sourced from the US Gulf Coast and the purchase in 2026 will be linked to Mont Belvieu as the benchmark, the minister said.

▶**Was eyeing US gas buy, P 19**

US moots 500% tariff on Russian oil deals

Trump has warned that any country doing business with Russia will be "very severely sanctioned", as Republican lawmakers pushed ahead with a bill proposing 500% tariff on secondary purchase and reselling of Russian oil. **P 19**

'Countries decide based on interests'

Amid US threat of additional levies on countries having trade ties with Russia, an official said countries will decide on trade based on their interests. "...trade with other countries is based on their bilateral relationship," the official said. **P 19**

Amid data blackout charges, SC seeks details of Delhi's AQI monitors

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

IN THE COURTS

- MP/MLA court sends SP's **Azam Khan, son Abdullah to 7-yr jail** for getting 2 PAN cards for Abdullah through forged documents
- **Quota in Maha civic polls can't exceed 50%,** rules SC. Says will stop nominations if cap is breached
- SC ultimatum to Telangana Speaker: Settle **disqualification plea against 10 BRS MLAs in a week** or we'll decide where you spend your New Year
- 'This isn't how you can treat our judges,' SC tells petitioner **seeking contempt against an HP district judge,** imposes fine **P 11**

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday sought details within seven days of the quality and efficiency of AQI measuring equipment installed by Delhi Pollution Control Committee, following allegations of data blackout and attempts to keep AQI readings low by sprinkling water around the measuring stations.

▶**EDIT: Smoking Gun, P 18**

While amicus curiae and senior advocate Aparajita Singh's claims about data outage and sprinklers deployed around AQI monitoring stations were countered by additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati, who said the equipment was among the world's best, a bench of CJI B R Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria directed Delhi govt to provide details of the air quality monitors by Monday next.

▶ **'Vehicle stopping...', P 3**

Raj teacher kills self, BLOs claim SIR pressure

Govt school teachers across Rajasthan protested Monday after the death of a 36-year-old colleague the previous day, saying their work as booth-level officers (BLO) in carrying out special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls took up 12-18 hours a day, and came with unrealistic targets and pressure, **reports Suparna Roy**.

▶**Runaway returns 28 yrs later for Bengal SIR, P 15**
▶**Not SIR, special revision of rolls in Assam, P 15**

Mukesh Jangid, who threw himself in front of a train, cited huge SIR workload and pressure, including suspension threats, in his suicide note, his family said.

In a memorandum to chief electoral officer, Rajasthan Shikshak Sangh Ekikrit urged officials to treat BLOs with respect, and highlighted daily target of 100 completed forms for each BLO. **P 15**

Baroda teen fast-tracks from selling veggies to playing for U-19 India A

Tushar.Tere@timesofindia.com

ON THE UPSWING

- **Ashutosh Mahida,** 18, a right-arm pacer, has played in Vijay Merchant Trophy. Last year, bowled in U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy, picking up 16 wickets in 5 games
- Earlier this month, Mahida played in the U-19 One Day Challenger Trophy at Hyderabad
- "This (triangular U-19) is my first international tournament, but I am not nervous. My aim is to give my best," says Mahida

"Mahida is the kind of bowler who likes to strike fear in the hearts of batsmen through sheer pace. He will go a long way —Ashutosh's club coach **Digvijay Rathwa**

Vadodara: Four years ago, life bowled a bouncer at Ashutosh Mahida. When Covid pandemic took away his father's livelihood, the young fast bowler had to help his father sell vegetables to keep the family afloat.

But he never gave up on his dream of playing for India. On Monday, Mahida, 18, walked onto the field for the India A Under-19 team in Bengaluru. The triangular series is being played between India A, India B and Afghanistan.

"My father, Chirag Mahida, is a choreographer and was doing well till the pandemic. During the lockdown, work slowed and he was forced to sell vegetables to make ends meet. While I continued my cricket, I also helped him sell veggies," Mahida told **TOI**.

"Those were challenging times, but we didn't give up. My father encouraged me to focus on cricket even during our troubles. Gradually, our situation improved and now he is back to his passion — choreography," Mahida, who plays for Motibaug Cricket Club, said.

▶**Pace to help him, P 22**

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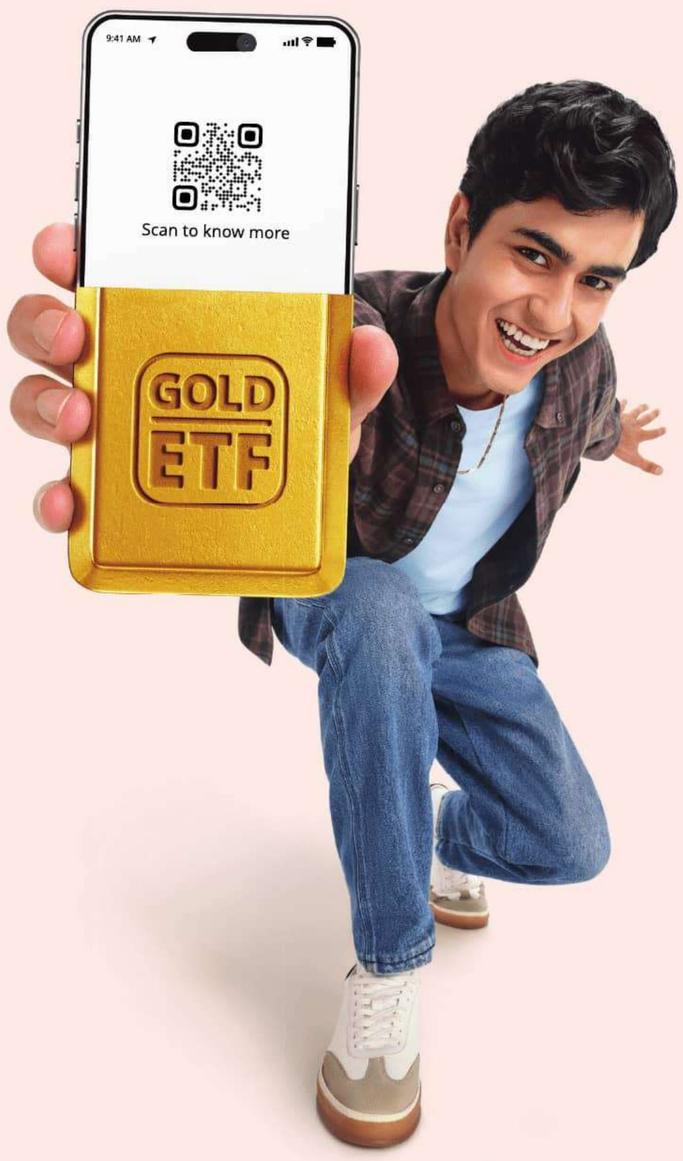

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CP struggles with cleanliness, hawkers & maintenance | 6

TIMES CITY

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025

TEMP ON MONDAY
27.1° MAXIMUM | 8.7° MINIMUM

FORECAST Partly cloudy sky. Max & min temperatures on Tuesday would be around 26°C and 10°C

MOONSET 4.01PM (TUE) **MOONRISE** 5.51AM (WED)
SUNSET 5.27PM (TUE) **SUNRISE** 6.47AM (WED)

351
AQI IN DELHI ON MONDAY (VERY POOR)

Fighting fire with fire, Delhi Police bomb squads set to get more teeth | 4

K-popular! Wellness products are trade fair favourites | 9

Schoolkids in HC: Halt outdoor sport activities in pollution months...

Abhinav.Garg@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In the wake of Delhi's worsening air quality during winter, a group of schoolchildren moved the Delhi High Court on Monday, seeking a halt to all outdoor sports trials and tournaments scheduled between Nov and Jan, when pollution levels routinely reach 'severe' and 'hazardous' levels.

The plea requests that the court direct the directorate of education and the association of schools to avoid scheduling sports events during the peak pollution months and instead hold them later, when the air quality is safer.

The minors, filing the petition through their parents, contended that while they actively participate in state-level sports tournaments, camps and trials in Delhi and elsewhere, the poor air quality during these events poses a serious health risk.

The petition argues that Delhi faces an annual public health emergency during these months, and that holding school, inter-zonal, state and national sporting events in this period endangers children's health.

It emphasises that forcing minors to undertake strenuous physical activity in severely polluted conditions violates their fundamental rights under Articles 21 and 21A of the Constitution. The plea cites frequent instances when the Air Quality Index (AQI) remains in the 'severe' category, causing risks such as impaired lung development, cognitive impairment and cardiovascular strain.

The case is likely to be taken up for hearing this week.

...Air quality improves a little, but still remains in very poor category

Kushagra.Dixit@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Temperatures continued to dip in the city on Monday as the air quality remained very poor for a fourth straight day. The minimum temperature was 8.7 degrees Celsius, 3.6 notches below normal — almost a cold wave — and was the lowest for the city since Nov 30, 2022, when it was 7.3 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature was 9 degrees Celsius on Sunday. A return of easterly winds is, however, likely to raise the minimum above 11 degrees Celsius by Nov 21.

According to Mahesh Palawat, vice-president at Skymet, the dip in temperature at night was due to cold northwesterly winds and clear skies. "There will be a gradual dip in the coming days, but a cold wave is unlikely. For a cold wave, the minimum would have to dip below 7 degrees Celsius," he said, adding that no significant western disturbance is expected till Nov-end.

The average air quality index on Monday was 351 against 377 a day earlier, both very poor. On Monday, three air quality monitoring stations were in the severe category, with Wazirpur being the worst impacted at 409. The average AQI is forecast to remain very poor till at least Thursday.

The data from central govt's Decision Support System showed the contribution of stubble burning in Delhi's total PM2.5 was 12.8% on Sunday. No data on the actual contribution of stubble burning was released on Monday. So far this season, the highest single-day contribution was 22.4% on Nov 12.

Why Electric Vehicles Still Can't Make Dent In Petrol-Diesel Base

Mixed Progress In Delhi Across Categories Amid Dominance Of Traditional Fuel

Priyangi.Agarwal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: An analysis of total registered vehicles in Delhi, categorised by fuel type, shows a mixed uptake for electric vehicles (EVs). While EVs are increasing in categories like three-wheelers, goods vehicles, e-buses and e-rickshaws, their penetration is too small to make a dent in petrol and diesel vehicles, which are a major source of pollution in Delhi.

For instance, from Jan to Sept in 2024, 2.7 lakh petrol two-wheelers and 26,613 electric two-wheelers were registered. During the same period, 3.2 lakh petrol two-wheelers, including ethanol-blended petrol, and 27,028 electric two-wheelers were registered this year, shows govt's Vahan data analysed by think tank EnviroCatalysts. The data shows the registrations of both electric and petrol two-wheelers increased this year.

Similarly, the number of e-buses increased from 779 to 1,093 compared to 2024. However, diesel buses also increased from 686 to 730. In the three-wheelers (goods) category, the number of EVs registered this year was 11,331 compared to 8,379 last year. Even CNG vehicles in this category saw a noticeable increase. However, data shows although 1,198 electric three-wheelers passengers (mostly e-autos) were registered last year, none were registered this year till Sept.

In the four-wheeler category, petrol-based vehicles continue to dominate. Though the number of electric four-wheelers (private) increased from 3,848 to 9,905, the share of EVs was much less than petrol-based cars. Similarly, only 466 electric four-wheelers (passengers) were registered this year compared to 1,748 in 2024.

Sunil Dahiya, founder and lead analyst of EnviroCatalysts, said the data reveals a critical divergence in the market: "While last-mile connectivity and the number of e-buses have improved this year, evidenced by high e-rickshaw registration and a slight increase in e-buses, the overall growth in the vehicle population is still driven by petrol and CNG vehicles across the two-wheeler, four-wheeler car and goods vehicles categories."

Stressing the strategy to clean Delhi's mobility has two pillars, he said, "First, we must urgently step up EV penetration through targeted policies and infrastructure. This will help them eat into the share of polluting vehicles, reducing overall fuel consumption and emissions. Second, and just as important, we must use this transition to bolster public transport and non-motorised transport. The objective is sustainable urban mobility, not merely replacing one type of private vehicle with another."

Asked why no e-auto was registered till Sept, Ankit Sharma, an e-auto driver and president of Delhi Auto Chalak Sangh, said, "The main issue is their spare parts like batteries and controllers are available only with company-based manufacturers. These are priced over Rs 1 lakh, which is very expensive for auto drivers. In contrast, maintenance of CNG-based autos is affordable."

Amit Bhatt, India MD of International Council on Clean Transportation, said any new tech takes time to get adopted. "However, the benefits of EVs are far more than mobility. To control pollution in Delhi-NCR, we need to switch to transport with zero emission, including EVs."

TIMES Special Environment

EVs, he added, contribute to societal benefits and there is a need for policies leading to more adoption of EVs. "People may buy EVs for a green number plate or wish to use new tech. However, giving a rebate to people buying EVs is not enough as we need to learn from other countries to ensure large EV penetration. In China, London and California, there is a provision for original equipment manufacturers to sell a certain portion of vehicles as EVs of their total sale, and it may become 100% by 2035."

Warrior Moms, a group of mothers fighting for clean air in Delhi, compiled policy gaps in EV and found that for many residents in housing societies, the biggest hurdle isn't buying one — it is charging it. Many e-rickshaws rely on unauthorised charging setups due to the lack of accessible public charging stations, it stated.

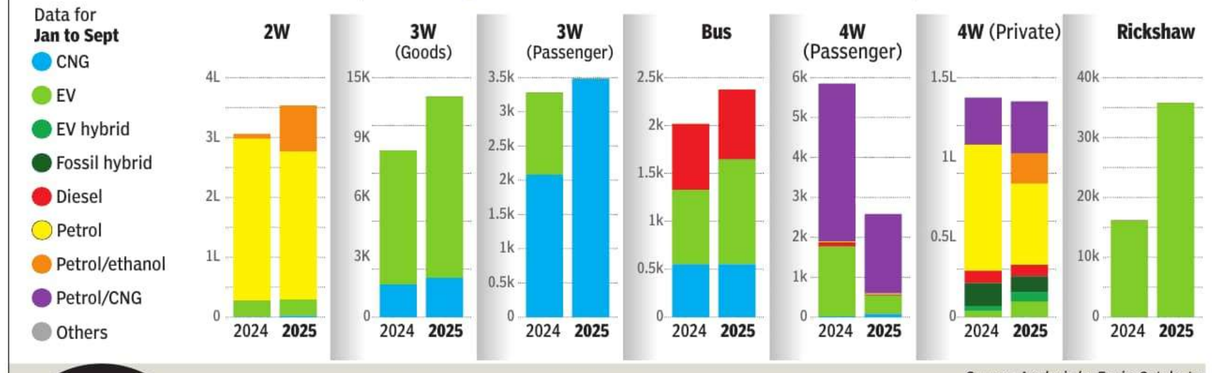
In its EV policy expected next year, Delhi govt is planning to offer higher subsidies and better charging infrastructure to boost adoption.

LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE THEY CAN CUT POLLUTION LOAD

Noticeable growth in EV registrations in two-wheelers, but petrol still accounts for most vehicles

In three-wheelers (goods), EVs have grown sharply, higher percentage than CNG; in passenger segment, no EVs registered this year

Buses have seen clear rise in EVs, an increase in diesel too; petrol dominates private 4-wheelers



ROLE OF VEHICULAR POLLUTION

According to the Centre's Decision Support System, transport sector is the major source of Delhi's local pollution this winter season

Another study by Teri-ARAI in 2018 stated that transport sector contributed 38.8% to PM2.5 in Delhi

A study by SAFAR in 2018 showed that the emission load from vehicles to PM2.5 was 41% in Delhi

Source: Analysis by EnviroCatalysts based on Vahan data

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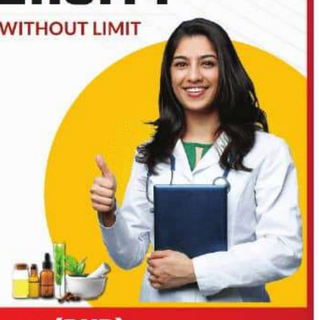

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ग्रीन कवर विस्तार- प्रदूषण से लड़ने के लिए 'एक पेड़ माँ के नाम 2.0' अभियान

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76 स्वीपर मशीनों से अब धूल पर प्रभावी नियंत्रण

386 एंटी-स्मॉग गन से हवा में प्रदूषण पर लगाम लगाई जा रही है

दिल्ली साथ होगी
तभी दिल्ली साफ़ होगी

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Dirty Picture: Make-Up Fades, Frothing Returns

Impact Of Temporary Cleanup For Chhath Puja Wears Thin

Kushagra.Dixit
@timesofindia.com

Jatin Kumar

FROTHING AT THE MOUTH: The real picture of river is visible at Kalindi Kunj on Monday

New Delhi: The froth has resurfaced in the Yamuna after a disappearance in the run-up to Chhath Puja.

The river's flow was increased from the upstream Hathnikund barrage during Chhath in Oct, and temporarily it appeared cleaner. This was cited as an achievement by Delhi govt.

The river is now frothing at points along its stretch near barrages where water churns due to turbulence. The maximum frothing over the last few days has been seen at the Kalindi Kunj Barrage. The froth, a visual indicator of pollution, indicates the existence of surfactants and other pollutants. It suggests that sewage from homes or industries are not being managed well and are making their way to the river through stormwater and untapped drains.

Delhi environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the poor processing at sewage treatment plants was to be blamed, and it was being fixed. "The shortcoming of previous govts which failed to upgrade the STPs and CETPs is the cause. Frothing is happening because the STPs cannot treat the sewage properly, and the untreated water flows into the river. We are working to upgrade the STPs. The recent suggestions in the study by TERI have pointed to several reasons and suggest long-term steps to end frothing for good. We are considering the recommendations as well," Sirsa said.

Sewage treatment remains a problem. A recent RTI reply cites data for June from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which shows that just four of the 37 plants meet the standards on fecal coliform and other pollutants such as BOD, TSS, phosphates and ammonia. A DPCC report, however, for the same month, showed pollution levels to be exponentially low.

TOI in an Oct 29 report, titled "Yamuna flow reduces water diverted to canal," pointed out that the river deserves long-term fixes and year-long flow for ecological-balance.

Central Water Commission (CWC) data shows that barely a day after Chhath, the additional water being released into the river from Hathnikund was reduced, prompting experts to compare the river to a tap.

Between Oct 21 and 25, more than 668,000 cusecs of water was sent into the Yamuna to push fresh water downstream and dilute pollution levels before Chhath. At one point, the barrage released up to 225 cumecs (7,990 cusecs) into the river, while only about 53 cumecs was diverted into the East and West Yamuna canals. But by the morning of Oct 28, a day after the main Chhath celebrations, the situation had reversed.

"Barring the monsoon months, the frothing problem in the Yamuna has become a year-round phenomenon at Okhla and ITO barrages in Delhi. Soon after the end of the flood impact, frothing returns in the river, profound during winter months. It only becomes a topic of discussion mainly due to Chhath celebrations... significant releases from Hathnikund barrage this year have briefly helped in extending the timeline. But now the river is totally deprived of essential flow and is hardly getting even 5% of available inflows from the barrage," said Bhim Singh Rawat, a Yamuna activist and member of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP).

"Remedying the situation requires unified actions and dedicated effort on multiple fronts, including increasing the e-flow in the river, reducing the city's water footprints on the river, and improving the functioning of STPs and CETPs," he added.

A study by TERI, submitted to Delhi govt recently, suggests a long-term roadmap for the river's rejuvenation and a Ganga-like State Mission for Clean Yamuna (SMCY) to ensure inter-agency coordination.

YOU READ IT HERE

Yamuna flow reduces as water diverted to canals

CM calls for unified action to fix Delhi's pollution problem

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Chief minister Rekha Gupta on Monday called for regional unity to address the capital's pollution problems, stressing that the city's pressing issues such as poor air quality and cleaning of the Yamuna cannot be solved in isolation.

At a meeting of Northern Zonal Council in Faridabad, chaired by Union home minister Amit Shah, she urged the neighbouring states to act together. Delhi continues to bear the brunt of cross-border pollution, with stubble smoke — especially from Punjab — pushing the air quality to dangerous levels, she said.

"The regional impacts on Delhi's air quality were presented in detail. Particularly, in the context of pollution arising from stubble burning, an appeal was made for cooperation from the neighbouring states," Gupta said. Suggestions related to the Yamuna cleaning, drinking water supply, and further strengthening and modernising of the transport network of Delhi-NCR were also presented. "Permanent solutions on these issues are possible through regional coordination and sustained cooperation," she emphasised.

Gupta claimed, "States like Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have shown positive progress in crop-residue management in recent years, but the volume of smoke coming from Punjab remains significantly high."

Northern Zonal Council is a key inter-state forum where the northern states and the Union territories jointly address shared issues like transport, environment, security and regional development.

Pointing out that Delhi and Haryana govts have been taking steps to improve the Yamuna's condition, CM underlined that there was a need to trap all drains falling into the river, complete sewer line and desilting work, and ensure that only treated water flows into it.

Man (21) dies, another injured in west Delhi hit-and-run

New Delhi: A 21-year-old man died and another was injured after they were struck by a vehicle in a hit-and-run incident in west Delhi's Mayapuri on Sunday. Police were informed about the accident by the hospital where the two victims were admitted for treatment.

During the investigation, it was revealed that the victims, identified as Deepak (25) and Suraj (21), both residents of Mayapuri, were crossing the road when a speeding vehicle hit them. Suraj succumbed to his injuries and Deepak was receiving treatment.

Police registered a case under sections 281 (rash or negligent driving or riding on a public way), 125A (act endangering life or personal safety of others), and 106(1) (causing death by negligence) of the BNS. "With the help of CCTV footage, the alleged vehicle has been identified, and raids are being conducted to nab the accused," police said.

Earlier this month, a 40-year-old man died after being struck by a vehicle while crossing the road near Alaknanda Market in south Delhi's CR Park. TNN

SC: Stopping vehicles and construction not feasible

▶Continued from P1

Bhati said sprinklers are deployed across the city and blamed political motives behind the circulation of videos about water guns being used around the stations. The CJI said he has seen the sprinklers around SC too.

With the pollution levels remaining in the very poor to hazardous levels, the bench directed the chief secretaries of Punjab and Haryana to scrupulously adhere to measures required to prevent stubble burning, as per the Commission on Air Quality Management's Nov 13 letter to them.

Punjab govt wanted the Centre and the states which suffer pollution from farm fires to pay incentives to farmers in a graded form to dissuade them from burning stubble.

Another senior advocate, G Sankaranarayanan compared the AQI standards of India with California and said in India the scale is calibrated at a higher level to show even hazardous quality air as satisfactory. He said time has come to take harsh measures like stopping all vehicles and construction work.

The bench said this suggestion forgets to balance the interests of lakhs of migrant labourers who come from various states to work in Delhi and earn their livelihood. "Environmental concerns must be balanced with developmental issues," the CJI-led bench said.

SC asked Bhati to place on record the comprehensive plan of action which the govts have worked out to gradually reduce stubble burning incidents in the NCR states.

Authorised Dealers: New Delhi: East Delhi: Shekhawati Electronics (Zedex): 98717 33311; **Moti Nagar:** Buglee Automobiles: 98718 64545; **East of Kailash:** Buglee Automobiles: 98718 64545; **Majlis Park:** Malwa Motor Sales: 89300 29090; **Safdarjung Enclave:** Jai Auto: 75740 66633; **Dwarka:** Jai Auto: 75740 66633; **Mathura Road:** Jai Auto: 011-45877777; **Paschim Vihar**: Ring Road Motocorp: 84488 43454; **Jahangirpuri:** Ring Road Motocorp: 92891 09546; **Gurugram:** (Golf Course Road): Ring Road Motocorp: 93111 54254; (Sector 18): Ring Road Motocorp: 0124-4851200; (Sector 15): Jai Auto: 75740 66633 / 0124-4762700; (Sohna Road): Jai Auto Vehicles: 75740 66633; **Noida:** (Sector 63): Brite Auto Wheels: 70316 80316; (Sector 6): Experience center: Brite Auto Wheels: 70316 80316 / 0120-6779999; (Greater Noida): Brite Auto Wheels: 70316 80316; Noida (Sector 60): Brite Auto Wheels: 70316 80316; **Faridabad:** Excel Cars Pvt. Ltd.: 98998 22211 / 85888 58411; **Sahibabad:** (Zedex) Shekhawati Electronics: 98716 33311; **Ghaziabad:** Brite Auto Wheels: 70316 80316; **Meerut:** Brite Auto Wheels: 70316 80316; **Dehradun:** (Dudhli Road): DPM Automobiles: 072170 98711; (Saharanpur Road): DPM Automobiles: 072170 98711; **Haldwani:** Pal Prateek Automobile:72170 13243 / 72170 13275; **Rudrapur:** Pal Prateek Automobile: 80626 16476; **Roorkee:** RN Mobility: 73027 97510; **Agra:** Prem Garages: 75007 77777 / 78304 41111; **Lucknow:** (Transport Nagar): Speedworks Auto: 70282 08222 / 088107 16976; (Hazrat Ganj): Speedworks Auto: 70282 08222; (Chinhat): Automovers Auto Industry: 88107 17467; (Safedabad): Automovers Auto Industry: 73111 55824; **Kanpur:** (Dada Nagar): Speedworks Auto: 88107 19362; (Kalpi Road): Speedworks Auto: 88107 16975; **Sahibabad:** (Zedex) Shekhawati Electronics: 98716 33311; **Prayagraj:** (Begum Bazar): Avya Automobiles: 81880 65003; (Tandon Road): Avya Automobiles: 81880 65001; **Gorakhpur:** MM Auto Sales: 91617 44400; **Bareilly:** Commercial Automotives: 99175 75205 / 89388 09955; **Aligarh:** Prem Garages: 75007 77777; **Varanasi:** Avya Automobiles: 81880 54701 / 81880 65003; **Moradabad:** Commercial Automotives: 99175 75204 / 89388 05709; **Saharanpur:** RN Mobility: 73027 97510; **Muzzafarnagar:** RN Mobility: 73027 97510; **Jhansi:** Kanal Vehicles: 73177 72176

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Fighting Fire With Fire, Delhi Police Bomb Squads Set To Get More Teeth

DEFENCE BOOST: Overhaul Of Counter-Terrorism Capabilities In Store With ₹35cr Budget

Raj Shekhar Jha & Abhay | TNN

New Delhi: Delhi Police has initiated a major, multi-crore overhaul of its counter-terrorism capabilities, earmarking over Rs 35 crore for the procurement of advanced bomb detection and disposal equipment, according to sources.

This substantial investment is coupled with a significant expansion and upskilling of the force's bomb detection teams (BDT) and bomb disposal squads (BDS), signalling a proactive strategy to counter evolving improvised explosive device (IED) threats in the national capital.

Supply orders have been placed for a sophisticated array of instruments designed to enhance the safety and efficiency of explosive ordnance disposal. The centrepiece of the new arsenal is the acquisition of latest technology, including 46 non-linear junction evaluators (NLJE) worth Rs 14.2 crore, crucial for detecting hidden electronics in walls or non-metallic containers. The procurement list also includes 26 fiber optic scopes (Rs 6 crore), essential for non-destructive visual inspection of suspicious packages, and 44 bomb blankets (Rs 5.3 crore) for immediate containment.

Other key additions bolstering the safety and operational capacity of the teams are 24 tactical ballistic shields (Rs 4.8 crore), 28 electronic stethoscopes (Rs 3.4 crore) for listening to timing mechanisms and 24 night vision monoculars (Rs 1.1 crore). Furthermore, the force is adding nine IED containment vessels (Rs 77.4 lakh) to safely move and neutralise explosive devices. This comprehensive upgrade represents one of the largest single-phase modernisation drives for Delhi Police's anti-terror units.

COUNTERING EVOLVING IED THREATS

- Delhi Police is procuring advance equipment to detect bombs worth over ₹35 crore; supply orders placed
- 6 cops from bomb disposal squad of Delhi Police participated in exercise 'Visfot Kawach', organised by NSG Manesar, from Nov 8 to Nov 14
- The bomb detection squad's strength is now 8, up from existing 5 teams
- Ex Marcos, Para and Infantry members who have knowledge of bombs, are now part of these teams
- 86 personal underwent two weeks "IED Awareness" training programme organised by NSG and crime branch from Oct 6 to Oct 18
- During Op Sindoor, 150 bomb squad members were trained by NSG in handling unexploded bombs and munitions
- In 2025, 75 police personnel from BDS/BDTs were also trained by NSG in advanced security check procedures
- The teams are using special software for real-time data sharing, pattern recognition and modus operandi analyses with stakeholders

ABOUT DELHI'S BOMB HANDLING TEAMS

Delhi has bomb detection teams (BDT) and bomb disposal squads (BDS), along with K9 (dog) squads, to handle bomb threats

18 BDTs and 8 BDS are now in place with BDTs being the first responders with K9

They are stationed at around two dozen locations across the city to cover any area at the earliest

ADDITIONS BEING MADE TO DELHI POLICE'S ARSENAL

- 26 Fiber Optic Scope — ₹ 6 CRORE
- 24 Tactical Ballistic Shield — ₹ 4.8 CRORE
- 24 Night Vision Monocular — ₹ 1.1 CRORE
- 28 Electronic Stethoscope — ₹ 3.4 CRORE
- 09 IED Containment Vessel — ₹ 77.4 LAKH
- 44 Bomb Blankets — ₹ 5.3 CRORE
- 46 Non-Linear Junction Evaluator — ₹ 14.2 CRORE

Beyond the hardware upgrade, Delhi Police is substantially reinforcing its specialised human resources. The number of bomb disposal squads has been increased from five to eight, a crucial 60% boost in capacity. Overall, the capital now has 18 BDTs and eight BDSs, strategically stationed at nearly two dozen locations to ensure rapid response times. BDTs, which include the essential K9 (dog) squads, act as first responders, while BDS handle the actual neutralisation.

A significant new development is the induction of former military personnel into these teams, drawing on expertise from the armed forces. Members with prior knowledge of explosives from the Marcos, Para and Infantry wings are now part of the specialised bomb handling units, bringing invaluable real-world experience to urban counter-IED operations.

Senior cops said the bomb squad members are being subjected to intense, specialised training in collaboration with National Security Guard (NSG). This year, training programmes have been continuous and multi-faceted, said special CP (crime) Devesh Srivastava. "Most recently, six cops from BDS participated in a specialised anti-IED exercise called 'Visfot Kawach', organised by NSG in Manesar from Nov 8-14," he added.

Prior to this, 86 personnel underwent a two-week IED awareness training programme organised by NSG and the crime branch from Oct 6-18. Furthermore, after Operation Sindoor, 150 bomb squad members received NSG training in handling unexploded bombs and munitions. An additional 75 personnel from BDT/BDS were trained by NSG in advanced security check procedures this year.

Delhi Police has also added tools to enhance its bomb disposal capabilities, including render safe procedures toolkits to disarm IEDs, telescopic manipulators to handle IEDs from a distance, deep search metal detectors and M-Ion explosive vapour detectors that analyse airborne samples to detect explosive materials like TNT and RDX.

To enhance operational effectiveness and intelligence sharing, the bomb teams are now using special software, which allows for real-time data sharing, pattern recognition and modus operandi analyses with various security stakeholders. This ensures police stay ahead of criminal and terrorist elements that are constantly innovating their attack methods.

"The massive procurement and focused training signify a clear directive from the Delhi Police leadership to elevate the city's defensive posture. By blending high-end technology, specialised military expertise and rigorous training, we are positioning ourselves to effectively counter any IED-related threat and safeguard the capital," a senior officer said.

2 more succumb to injuries, blast toll goes up to 15

Abhay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Two more victims of the Red Fort blast have succumbed to injuries, raising the death toll to 15 a week after the explosion.

The deceased are 50-year-old Vinay Pathak and 73-year-old Mohammad Luqman.

Vinay, who lived with his family in south Delhi's Aya Nagar, was on ventilator support, a senior police officer said.

Vinay's son Anees said his father went to Chandni Chowk to buy something for his younger brother and was on his way home when the blast occurred. "We came to know about it after the driver of the cab my brother had booked informed him that there was a blast at the spot and he could not go there to pick up the passenger," Anees said.

The family rang up Vinay. When he didn't respond, they went to LNJP Hospital, where they found him admitted. "He was unconscious," the son said.

The other blast victim to die was Luqman from Begusarai, Bihar. He was a trinket seller, who had died on Nov 12, but the death became known five days later.

Luqman's son Mohammad Sikandar (35) said: "On Nov 7, he went to buy some trinkets. On Nov 8 and 9, he completed his purchases, but on Nov 10, he went to the Red Fort area when the blast occurred."

Luqman used to stay at a labourer's house in Turkman Gate and, after work, would either return home or stay at Sikandar's house in Badarpur. "We came to know about the blast but thought my father may be at Turkman Gate," he said.

Later, one of Sikandar's brothers got a call from their father's phone. The person told him that Luqman was admitted to a hospital after being injured in the blast. He demanded Rs 6,000. At first, they thought it was a scam, but when the calls continued, they began searching for him.

"We contacted the labourer, who said that Luqman was not at his house. We started searching for him, but the phone was switched off. We then went to the police station and filed a missing person complaint," Sikandar said.

The search continued till the afternoon of Nov 12, when the family reached the LNJP Hospital mortuary and found Luqman's body. "We suspect he went near the Red Fort to buy clothes and toys for his grandchildren when the blast happened," Sikandar said.

Police said they were yet to identify three body parts found at the blast site. 28 people were injured in the Nov 10 blast.

Mohd Luqman (above) and Vinay Pathak are the latest casualties

Al-Falah submits documents

The office-bearers of Al-Falah University submitted few documents related to their NAAC certification and UGC recognition. Police sources said two earlier notices had been issued to the university management, after which partial paperwork was provided. "We have now served another notice seeking rest of the documents," a source said. The crime branch has registered two cases against the institute — one for cheating and another for forgery. TNN

J&K students' association alleges profiling

New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) on Monday alleged that Kashmiri students in several northern states were facing profiling, eviction and intimidation in the aftermath of the Red Fort blast.

At a press conference, JKSA national convener Nasir Khuehami claimed that students in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi had reported aggressive verification drives, questioning and pressure from landlords to vacate rented accommodation, creating what he described as a climate of "collective suspicion". He said some students had returned home out of fear.

Condemning the blast, the association called it a "barbaric act of terror", and said Kashmiri students "reject terrorism in all forms". Khuehami added that the community should not be stigmatised.

The association has written to Prime Minister, requesting him to appeal to citizens not to circulate unverified claims, help curb misinformation and restore confidence among Kashmiri families.

The association alleged that social media speculation after the blast intensified hostility against Muslim and Kashmiri youth. It urged universities and local administrations to ensure student safety and take action against any attempt to create communal discord. TNN

Sleuths probe 'shoe bomber' angle

▶Continued from P1

Similar to the Hamas-style drone attack plan, a terror strike using drones was carried out by Pakistan-based terrorists at the Jammu air force station in 2021. Two low-flying drones were used to drop two improvised explosive devices, which was the first of its kind.

Wani, officials said, was an 'active co-conspirator' in the attack and had worked closely with Umar un Nabi to plan the terror carnage. "Several teams of the anti-terror agency are pursuing multiple leads, and are conducting searches across states to identify every person involved in the attack. NIA continues to explore various angles to unravel the conspiracy behind the bombing," said a senior NIA officer.

Danish's name had surfaced during the interrogation of arrested doctors as one of the alleged members of the module. During questioning, Danish, a political science graduate, told investigators that he first met the doctor module last October at a mosque in Kulgam, **TOI** had reported on Monday. Umar had asked him to come to his rented accommodation linked to Al Falah University in Faridabad to participate in the terror attack, Danish reportedly disclosed.

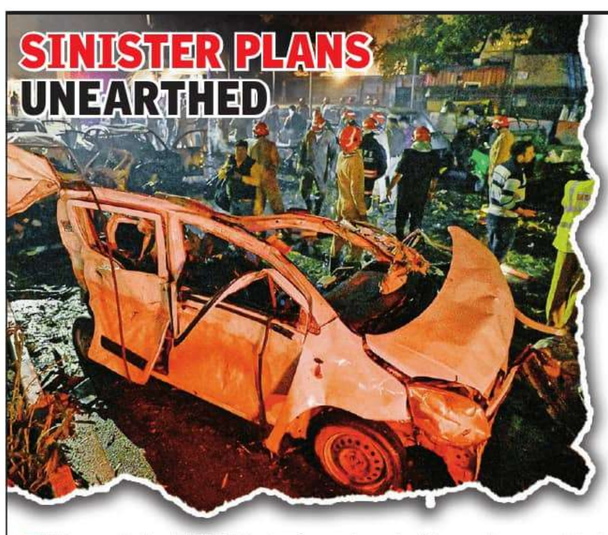
On Sunday, NIA had arrested Kashmiri resident Amir Rashid Ali in whose name the i20 car involved in the attack was registered. A resident of Pampore, Ali was arrested from Delhi.

Meanwhile, investigators are trying to ascertain if Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist Umar Un Nabi operated as a 'shoe bomber. This line of inquiry emerged after sleuths made a crucial recovery at the blast site: a shoe found beneath the driving seat, near the right front tyre of i20 car.

The discovery points towards a pattern chillingly similar to the infamous Dec 2001 attempt by Richard Reid, who tried to detonate a TATP (triacetone triperoxide) explosive hidden in his shoes on an American Airlines flight. Forensic teams examining the recovered shoe found a metallic substance inside, which is currently being scrutinised to determine if it functioned as a trigger mechanism for the explosive device.

Further substantiating the theory of an attempted 'shoe bomb' explosion, traces of TATP have also been identified and recovered from both the tyre and shoe at the blast location, sources said. In addition to the evidence pointing towards a personal explosive device, investigators have also confirmed finding traces of explosives in the area beneath the car's rear seat, suggesting the potential involvement of multiple explosive components in the plot.

SINISTER PLANS UNEARTHED



- **NIA arrests Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish** | Suspect from Qazigund, Anantnag, calling him a key associate of the suicide bomber, Umar Un Nabi
- **Hamas-style drone attacks planned** | The Jaish module was planning to use drones equipped with small, powerful bombs for explosions in crowded places, mimicking attacks carried out by groups like Hamas and ISIS
- **Wani provided technical support** | By modifying drones; was attempting to make small rockets for serial blasts planned by the group, though these sinister plans were foiled before execution
- **Shoe bomber theory investigated** | A line of inquiry is whether the suicide bomber, Umar, operated as a 'Shoe Bomber', after a shoe with a metallic substance and traces of the explosive TATP were found at the blast site, similar to the Richard Reid attempt, who used a similar strategy on an American Airlines flight in 2001
- **Multiple explosive components suspected** | Traces of explosives, including TATP, were found on the recovered shoe and tyre, as well as beneath the car's rear seat
- On Sunday, NIA had arrested Amir Rashid Ali, a resident of Pampore, in whose name the i20 car used in the attack was registered

On their toes, RWAs upgrade CCTVs, boost guard patrols

Khushi.Bhuta@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi's resident welfare associations (RWAs) and other welfare bodies are taking immediate measures to secure neighbourhoods a week after the devastating car bomb blast at Red Fort by increasing guard patrols, installing or upgrading CCTV cameras and monitoring visitor access.

In south Delhi's Navjiwan Vihar, residents said on Monday that five more streetlights have been installed and five others have been fixed. Guards have been briefed to use an app to log all entries to and exits from the gated society. The app allows them to photograph those who visit the society.

Navjiwan Vihar RWA secretary Dr Ruby Makhija said that the association has implemented a system through which guards are alerted if a delivery person or visitor doesn't leave within half an hour. "We have a small market here, so if someone enters to visit the market and doesn't leave within half an hour, the guards contact them for an update," she said.

Mantu Singh, who supervises security, told **TOI**, "Everyone has been alert after the blast, which is why we have been able to understand what measures are needed."

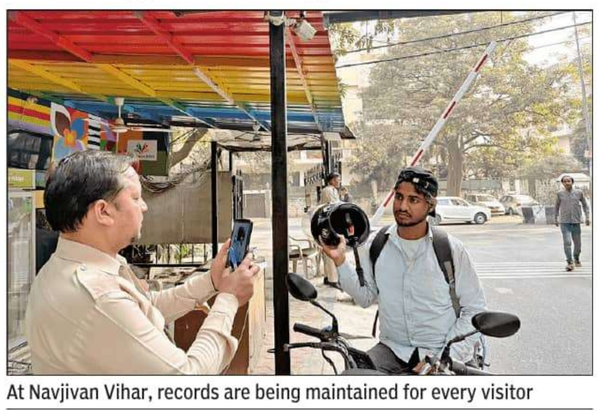
Similarly, in South Ex-II, the anxiety has brought focus tn the movement of vehicles. Car number plates are being recorded, particularly during the evening. South Ex-II has designated stickers in place to ensure that only verified vehicles are parked on the premises.

South Ex-II RWA general secretary Gaurav Khosla said that they have been pushing for automatic boom barriers. "With a sticker, movement can still happen if someone steals the car," he said. "With automatic boom barriers, we want to give residents a key that would ensure that the person gets out of the vehicle and enables the barrier to open."

The RWAs have also been working with the respective local police. In southwest Delhi's Vasant Vihar, local people said that police vigilance has increased, especially during the later hours of the day. Vasant Vihar Welfare Association president Gurpreet Singh Bindra said, "Police have been in constant touch with us, briefing us almost every alternate day."

The many guards who work at the houses and embassies in the locality have also been briefed by the police to keep an eye out for potential danger. RK Singh, a security guard at a residence in B-block, Vasant Vihar, said that the cops had given him their contact details to raise the alarm if he notices any suspicious activity. "After the blast, we were told to be vigilant and flag any suspicious gathering or people."

Saket RWA federation president Rakesh Dabas said that residents have requested police for extra patrolling in the area. In East of Kailash, Karan Aggarwal, a member of D-block RWA, said that the blast has prompted them to plan for more tenant and servant verification camps.



At Navjivan Vihar, records are being maintained for every visitor

Cops fix gaze on chemical trade hubs

Devanshi.Mehta
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi Police on Monday briefed chemical traders in Old Delhi's Khari Baoli as part of wider checks across markets dealing in industrial chemicals a week after the Red Fort blast that has claimed 15 lives.

Police officers are reviewing sourcing, sales patterns and security practices in the chemical hubs. The Chemical Traders Association, which connects nearly 700 members in Khari Baoli, Narela, Bawana, Patparganj, Sonipat, Sahibabad, Kundli and other industrial clusters, was called to the briefing by officers of Lahori Gate police station.

Pradeep Gupta, president of the association, told **TOI**: "We were told that chemicals should not be handed over to anyone without proper ID. We were advised not to heed online or phone-based enquiries from unknown people.... We've requested stronger restrictions on buying and selling sensitive chemicals online. Ammonium nitrate and other chemicals are openly listed on trading platforms, so monitoring is important."

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

We were told chemicals should not be handed over to anyone without proper ID

Association member Rajkumar Gupta said: "If someone seems suspicious, traders must alert the authorities or even the association. Any request for unusually large quantities, or for chemicals we are not licensed to sell, should be reported with the phone number and details of the person asking for it, whether or not the sale happens."

Khari Baoli and other such chemical markets do have CCTV cameras, but traders have been told that their regular upkeep is essential. "These should be upgraded to high-definition units with night vision, and there must be a minimum 45-day backup so police can review the footage," a police officer said at the briefing.

"Online trading platforms pose a challenge because we never see the buyer. Their GST or Aadhaar may be listed, but we still don't know who is actually purchasing. Even for 1–2 kg of a chemical, money is transferred instantly, and without physical interaction it's hard to assess credibility," Gupta said. The traders have requested govt to update and expand the list of hazardous chemicals, especially those that can be diverted for terror activities.

Most chemicals sold in markets are not covered by regulations, traders said. Only substances classified as hazardous face restrictions.

DU plans 700 CCTV cams to ward off trouble

Sugandha.Jha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi University is set to install around 700 CCTV cameras across its campuses as part of a long-pending security upgrade that had remained stalled for years due to budget constraints, officials said. A tender worth approximately Rs 9 crore has now been approved for the project, which will cover DU's North, South and newly established West and East campuses.

The proposal to expand CCTV surveillance has been in the pipeline for several years, with the university repeatedly announcing plans to install a large fleet of cameras but failing to implement them due to financial and logistical hurdles.

Currently, DU's surveillance infrastructure remains far below the requirement for its vast campus spread. The North Campus, spanning around 198 acres and covering departments along with the adjoining college areas, has only around 25 functional cameras, mostly installed at the arts faculty, the proctor's office, the central library and a few other locations. The South Campus, spread across 64 acres (excluding its scattered colleges), has 60 cameras, with an additional 100 installations underway within the administrative and department blocks.

Colleges maintain their own camera networks, but the university's central system — responsible for monitoring open campus areas — remains thin. During the DUSU polls this year, Delhi Police had temporarily installed 30 cameras as part of heightened security arrangements. These, however, are now non-functional.

A senior official said "the lack of maintenance has been a persistent concern, with many existing cameras often turning non-operational, affecting both monitoring and post-incident investigations. The new installations are expected to replace worn-out units and strengthen overall surveillance."

The move gained urgency in the wake of the Red Fort blast, after which the university held a security review meeting with Delhi Police. The university has not disclosed the installation timeline for the new cameras.

The absence of functional CCTV cameras around DU has been flagged over the years. Investigations into incidents such as the vandalism at the DUSU office in 2024 and earlier cases, including the 2011 murder of a student near her college, were hampered by the lack of footage. The gaps have drawn criticism from students and families.

SECURITY UPGRADE

Long-pending CCTV overhaul finally moves | DU clears ₹ 9-crore plan for 700 cameras after years of delay

Current surveillance gap | 25 cameras for 198-acre North Campus, 60 for 64-acre South Campus— far below requirement

Police-installed cameras during DUSU polls now defunct; temporary system switched off after elections

Maintenance failure flagged | Several existing cameras non-functional, prompting urgent need for replacements

Security push after Red Fort blast | DU has ordered stepped-up surveillance and vehicle checks

Past cases hampered by missing CCTV footage | From 2011 student murder to 2024 DUSU office vandalism

New installations expected to cover North, South and newly set-up campuses; timeline yet to be shared

Blast case: Car owner sent to 10-day NIA custody

Vineet.Upadhyay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday sent Amir Rashid Ali — a resident of Samboora in Pampore, Jammu & Kashmir, and the registered owner of the car used in the blast near Red Fort that killed 15 people — to 10-day NIA custody for allegedly helping suicide bomber Umar Un Nabi execute the Nov 10 attack.

In its remand application seeking 10 days' custody, the agency told principal district and sessions judge Anju Bajaj Chandna at Patiala House Courts that Ali had allegedly arranged a safe house and provided logistical support to Nabi in the days leading up to the blast.

The NIA informed the court that Ali would be taken to Kashmir for further investigation and said he was likely the last person to have been in contact with Nabi. His custodial interrogation, the agency argued, was essential to uncover the wider conspiracy.

Ali was brought to the court complex amid tight security. Proceedings were held in camera, and mediapersons were not allowed to enter the courtroom. Delhi Police and Rapid Action Force officers were deployed in and around the court complex, with anti-riot gear-equipped teams on standby to prevent any untoward incident.

According to the remand paper, the intensity of the blast was deliberately designed to instil fear among the public. The act, it stated, was intended to threaten and destabilise the nation's sovereignty and unity.

According to the prosecution, Ali had travelled to Delhi to facilitate the purchase of the car that was later used as the vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

Court acquits 3 in murder case, pulls up cops for 'casual' probe

Times News Network

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday acquitted three men in a murder case, sharply criticising Delhi Police for conducting a "casual and callous" investigation that left key questions unresolved.

Additional sessions judge Pawan Kumar acquitted Ritick Bhardwaj, Mohit Shukla and Amit, who were accused of fatally assaulting a vagabond, Ankit alias Lambu, near Safdarjung Hospital subway in July 2023.

"The prosecution failed to establish that the accused persons were arrested from the spot. There are questions regarding the recovery of the stone from the spot. The casual and shaky investigation adds misery to the already fragile case of the prosecution," the judge said.

The court noted that the investigating officer (IO) did not examine public witnesses present at the spot and failed to notify them to join the investigation. The conduct of the complainant at the time of the alleged incident raised serious doubts about his presence at the crime scene.

The accused had been charged under Sections 302 and 34 of the IPC for the fatal assault and were arrested on July 11, 2023, a day after the incident.

The court highlighted multiple lapses in the investigation, including the absence of the accused persons in photographs, no explanation for missing call detail record of the PCR caller and contradictions in witness testimonies. Anomalies were also noted between the location reported in the PCR call and the actual crime scene, further weakening the prosecution's case.

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Mr. Kewal Krishan Kochhar

(May 25, 1931 - November 16, 2025)

MCD to empower parking attendants to check vehicles

Vibha.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will introduce major changes to its parking policy in order to make parking spaces safer and more organised. The move comes days after the blast near the Red Fort metro station parking area.

During a meeting of MCD's remunerative and project cell, members pointed out that the current policy neither permits parking attendants to check vehicles nor specifies how long a vehicle can be parked at a designated site.

"At present, attendants can only alert police in extreme cases. The revised policy will empower attendants to inspect vehicles that raise suspicion. Members also stressed the need to set a clear time limit for vehicles to remain parked in MCD lots," said MCD's remunerative and project cell chairman Pramod Gupta.

"It has been observed that private car dealers park their vehicles in parking areas, due to which people coming to the market don't get proper facilities. Cars are often opened by mechanics and their parts sold, leading to misuse of parking space. This is illegal. Although after payment of the monthly licence fee, one can't stop a person from parking vehicles as per current policy, misuse of public space cannot be allowed at any cost," he added.

The meet also approved other key proposals, such as improving lighting in parking areas, especially multilevel facilities, to enhance women's safety; making verification of parking attendants mandatory; providing training in the use of handheld devices; and ensuring proper deployment of staff. A draft policy incorporating the suggestions will be prepared and tabled in the house for approval.

"It was decided to curb vehicle thefts and strengthen security arrangements in parking lots by installing CCTV cameras at entry and exit gates and ticket counters. Footage backup of at least 30 days will be mandatory and camera feeds will be regularly monitored," said committee member Yogesh Verma.

Trained and verified security guards will be deployed round-the-clock at all parking sites. Additional guards will be posted at night, and all personnel will be required to carry identity cards and handheld wireless devices. High-capacity LED lights will be installed at parking lots, with additional lighting arranged after identifying dark or blind spots. "Safe and adequately lit areas will be designated for women. Panic buttons or helpline numbers will be displayed at prominent locations," said Verma.

Fire extinguishers, sand buckets and emergency equipment will be provided at all parking sites and regular fire safety training will be given to staff. During the meeting, it was also decided that a QR-code-based complaint system be developed, with the supervisor's number displayed at each site. A monthly report of complaints will be sent to the department concerned.

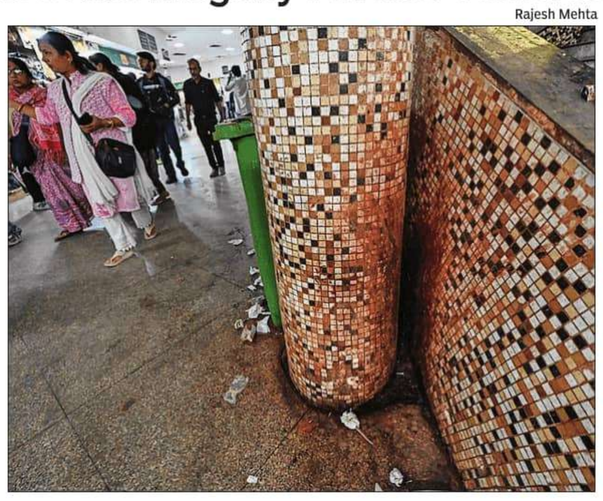
"Monthly inspections of all parking sites will be conducted by MCD and punitive action, including contract cancellation, taken against operators who fail to adhere to norms," stated the directives.

Cleanup? CP Goes Around In Circles

Lack Of Adequate Manpower, Presence Of Hawkers And Illegally Parked Vehicles Among Factors

Vibha Sharma
& Koushiki Saha | TNN

Rajesh Mehta



During a spot visit on Monday, overflowing bins could be seen across Connaught Place; paan-stained walls were another eyesore

New Delhi: Connaught Place, one of Delhi's busiest commercial hubs, draws thousands of visitors every day. Although the area falls under New Delhi Municipal Council's (NDMC) maintenance, keeping it clean remains a persistent challenge. Paan stains on pillars, dust-covered granite corridors and an inadequate daily sanitation force reflect a system struggling to cope with the massive footfall. While NDMC staff clear dustbins in the morning and sweep the roads when corridors are relatively empty, the market often slips into a shabby state by afternoon and evening.

Compounding the problem are hundreds of hawkers who occupy walking spaces and frequently leave behind garbage. Many visitors also contribute to littering, with bins routinely ignored. While NDMC said it is conducting a month-long cleanliness drive, traders, saying conditions on the ground remain largely unchanged, demanded long-term solutions to restore Connaught Place to its past glory.

Heaps of garbage, few workers to clean it

At Palika Bazaar's Gate No. 2, trader Vinay Singh Thakur pointed to an overflowing dustbin stuffed with plastic foils, much of it already scattered across the pavement. "By the time sanitation staff arrive, half the trash will be on the floor," he said.

The recently revamped terrace park above the underground market, meant to be a resting space for shoppers, has deteriorated into a littered patch, with plastic cups, plates and food packaging strewn across benches, pathways and even the edges of the drains, forcing visitors to sit amid the waste.

Thakur said a shortage of workers has worsened the situation. "There are five workers. This isn't enough to cover the stretch, especially during weekends when footfall is in thousands. And, the washrooms are always dirty," he said, adding that staff are deployed merely to meet paper requirements.

During a spot visit on Monday, overflowing bins could be seen across Connaught Place, attracting strays that rummaged through the trash. For visitors like Kanchana Singh, this has become routine. "We warded off a dog roaming around us, trying to eat leftovers from plates."

NDMC officials, however, said 78 sanitation personnel are deployed in CP for round-the-clock cleaning — 42 during the day, 18 in the evening and 18 at night. Two auto-tippers handle garbage lifting from 7.30am to 2pm and are later deployed across the market, they said, adding that maintenance of Palika Bazaar has been outsourced and is being monitored by the department.

Hawkers choking movement

Numerous vendors and haphazardly parked vehicles near intersections make it nearly impossible for pedestrians to move block-to-block using zebra crossings. Vendors crowd the entrances of every block, forcing people to walk through verandahs or outer lanes. Many vendors leave leftovers out in the open. Traders who approached Delhi High Court over illegal hawkers said meetings with NDMC yielded little relief. Atul Bhargava, president, New Delhi Traders' Association, said the matter has been in court since Oct 2023.

"Despite the court declaring the area a no-vending zone, violations continue. In June, contempt was issued against NDMC's enforcement department. The next hearing is on Nov 26," he said.

According to him, CP originally had 69 allotted vending sites, with 14 added later for disabled vendors. But, over 350 vendors now occupy common areas. Baljit Kohli, chairman, Palika Bazar Shopkeepers' Welfare Association, said all gates leading to the market are choked with vendors, including metro station entrances. "If there's any incident, people won't be able to escape due to the congestion. We plan to pursue the matter legally," he said.

TIMES Special

Arbind Singh, national coordinator, National Association of Street Vendors of India, termed CP an example of vending mismanagement. "Agencies have notified no-hawking zones but still allow hawkers to display items. Vendors also want a solution. Traders and vendors should work together," he said.

NDMC said regular field monitoring, inspections and enforcement drives are conducted to remove illegal hawkers. Under the 'Roko-Toko Abhiyaan', staff use megaphones to urge people not to litter. "Enforcement teams are also regularly in the field to remove people encroaching upon no-vending area and to issue challans," said an official.

Iconic pillars stained by paan

The once-stark white pillars of CP are now splattered with paan stains, left by shoppers and traders, marring its appearance. NDMC made several attempts to repaint the pillars, especially before major events such as the G20 Summit. Officials said stained corners are regularly scrubbed and repainted.

However, Amit Gupta of NDTA said stricter penalties are needed. "NDMC may claim to deploy civil guards to challan offenders, but the condition of the pillars speaks for itself. They should at least install boards. A month-long cleanliness drive is a sham," he said.

Back lanes neglected, corridors left dirty

Last year, ahead of New Year celebrations, NDMC undertook extensive wet cleaning and landscaping across major markets and later proposed an agency to procure equipment for regular deep cleaning.

The proposal, however, has not moved forward. "You can see the granite corridor covered with dirt. NDMC claimed to have carried out wet cleaning, but the difference is barely visible. It's the same story with the back lanes — it takes the entire day to clear scattered waste," said Bhargava.

Officials said sweeping is done five times a day, including wet mopping and pressure-jet cleaning. The area is covered twice each in morning and evening, and once at night using five wet-mopping machines, a pushback manual sweeper, an e-cart, and a mechanical road sweeper. A team of sanitation staff, three sanitary inspectors and three assistant sanitary inspectors supervise the area, NDMC said.

Green areas losing sheen

The green belts around CP's blocks, meant to beautify the area, are now signs of neglect. Bushes stand unkempt and blotched with paan stains, while several patches have thinned out entirely, leaving bare stretches that collect stray litter. "Instead of offering a clean, cohesive landscape, the belt appears worn and poorly maintained. CP is a popular destination among tourists; it's time the authorities looked for a solution," said Mahesh Jain, a trader.

Civic apathy adding to woes

Visitors often dump garbage in the open, worsening an already fragile cleanliness situation. The sheer volume of litter — plastic cups, bottles and wrappers — quickly overwhelms bins and spills onto pavements and corridors. Many ignore dustbins placed just a few steps away. "The habit of discarding waste casually not only mars the appearance, but also attracts strays, blocks walking spaces and forces workers to clean the same spots," said a trader.

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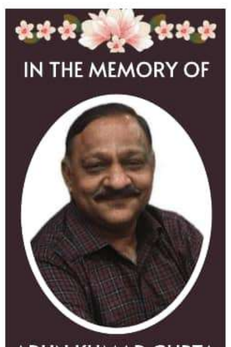

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Five years have passed, yet the memory of our father shines brightly in our lives. What an extraordinary life he led - full of strength, compassion, and tireless hard work. Known and respected in the society and steel industry, his kindness touched countless lives. Without him, our world feels a little colder, but we continue to cherish his legacy, feeling his presence in every memory. We love and miss him every day.
GUPTA FAMILY
CONTACT: 9810006195

Man dies after being hit by speeding DTC bus; police hunt for driver

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 55-year-old man died after being struck by a speeding DTC bus in southwest Delhi's Chhawla on Saturday night.

Responding to a call received around 10.54 pm reporting a road accident on Khaira Road, police reached the spot and found a man lying on the roadside with severe injuries. Cops are on the lookout for the driver who had fled the scene.

"Preliminary inquiry revealed that the man was crossing the road on foot when the bus, allegedly speeding and being driven rashly and negligently, struck him. He suffered critical injuries and was rushed to a hospital, but died during treatment," a senior police officer said.

The deceased was identified as Sahab Singh, 55, a mechanic from Indri in Karnal district.

A case has been registered under Sections 281 (rash driving or riding on a public way and 106 (death due to negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Chhawla police station.

Fire breaks out at pizza shop in east Delhi: A fire broke out at a pizza outlet near the Laxmi Nagarmetro station on Monday evening, an official of Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said. No casualties were reported in the incident, he said. DFS received a call about the incident at 4.45 pm, following which four fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the blaze was doused. PTI

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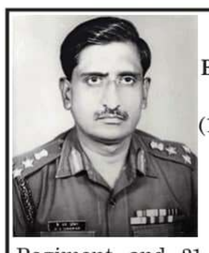

BRIGADIER KULDIP SINGH CHHOKAR (RETIRED)

(19 Dec 1940 to 16 Nov 2025) Brigadier Kuldip Singh Chhokar was commissioned on 12 June 1960 into 15 Field Regiment, Commanded 20 SATA Regiment and 21 Artillery Brigade. The officer was a dedicated soldier, whose demise on 16 November 2025 has left an irreparable void in the Gunner Fraternity. We salute his immense contribution and offer sincere condolences to the bereaved family. **Director General and All Ranks Regiment of Artillery.**

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SMT URMILA SINGH
(02.02.1949-18.11.2020)
Deeply missing in every moment of my life.., Birendra Prasad Singh (Husband), Amitesh & Anshoo, Saurabh & Priya (Son & Daughter in law) Amishu, Suhaani, Saachi, & Aashmi (Grand Daughters) & all family members & friends

CAUGHT IN THE NET

3 cybercrime modules busted; DU graduate among 8 arrested

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested eight people, including a DU graduate, following three crackdowns across the city that uncovered a wider network of cybercriminals operating through shell companies, mule accounts and fake trading platforms.

In the first case, police have busted an interstate forex-trading racket with a Dubai-based cyber-fraud handler emerging as the key figure behind the operation. The crime branch said the network used shell companies, mule accounts and fake trading dashboards to siphon off victims' money, with nearly Rs 40 lakh traced so far in the ongoing probe.

The case came to light on Oct 28 after suspicious, high-value transactions were reported from a shell firm's account. Investigators at the Cyber Police Station (Northwest) flagged the activity, prompting a deeper examination of the company's banking trail.

"Three members of the syndicate have been arrested so far," DCP (Crime) Aditya Gautam said. Among them is Anurag Kumar, described as a "professional mule-account opener," who was arrested on Nov 12 near Govindpuri metro station. He had opened several current accounts in the name of a shell firm and handed control to co-accused, Zeeshan Syed and Himanshu Gupta. Police seized ATM cards, cheque books, blank letterheads and company stamps from him.

Following Kumar's disclosure, police arrested Syed, a sales manager at a private bank's Hauz Khas branch. He allegedly misused his position to provide mobile numbers, ATM cards, cheque books and full access to fraudulent corporate accounts, receiving Rs 70,000 from co-accused Gupta.

Gupta, claimed to be the syndicate's coordinator, was arrested in Faridabad. Police said he linked Delhi-NCR mule networks to a Dubai-based handler, Abdul alias Vickey, and arranged meetings, collected bank kits and sent them abroad. Police said Gupta is already charged with forgery and cheating.

In a separate case, two people, including a DU graduate, were arrested for allegedly defrauding investors with promises of high returns on stock trades. The accused were identified as Amulya Sharma (23), a DU graduate and his associates, Garvit Sharma (26) and Sujal Sabharwal (20).

DCP (Northwest) Bhisham Singh said the case came to light after a 42-year-old woman from Paramanand Colony reported being cheated of Rs 3.38 lakh after being lured with false promises of high returns on stock investments.

Meanwhile, in another case from Burari, a 40-year-old accountant was cheated of Rs 3.31 lakh after a woman posing as a mutual-fund assistant added him to a social-media group, convinced him to install a trading app and invest. The man later discovered he could not withdraw the money, DCP (North) Raja Banthia said.

Police said Neeraj, 28, and Aman, 24, who supplied bank accounts to cyber-fraudsters on commission, were arrested. Sixteen similar complaints were found on the NCRP portal, and multiple bank accounts linked to the racket have been frozen.

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Man arrested for murdering wife over affair suspicion

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 31-year-old man was arrested for allegedly murdering his wife in northwest Delhi's Mahendra Park over suspicion that she was having an extramarital affair. The accused was identified as Vishnu Sharma, a resident of Jahangirpuri.

DCP (Northwest) Bhisham Singh said that the police received information around 4.30 pm about a body lying near a drainage line on Nov 14. The police team discovered the body of a woman later identified as Shweta Sharma. Shortly after the recovery, the accused arrived at the scene and told the police that the deceased was his spouse.

Confessing to the crime, he claimed that he had long suspected his wife of being involved with another man. These suspicions reportedly caused arguments between the couple. On Nov 13, around 9 pm, another heated confrontation broke out at their residence. During this argument, Sharma "lost control" and attacked Shweta with a stick, inflicting fatal injuries.

Sharma allegedly attempted to dispose of the body. He carried her on his shoulder and dumped it in an open drain near their locality before.

Police said Sharma is a habitual offender and has previously been involved in three criminal cases, including violations under the Excise Act.

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Properties 'booked' for illegal construction to get electricity access

Abhinav.Rajput@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In a major relief for thousands of residents, Delhi govt has lifted restrictions on issuing electricity connections to properties marked as 'booked' due to unauthorised constructions. These buildings have been flagged by MCD for violating laws or regulations.

CM Rekha Gupta approved the policy reform on Monday, paving the way for the power department to issue an order that will benefit over 1.25 lakh households across the city, according to the chief minister's office.

Under the new order, Discoms cannot deny or disconnect electricity solely because a property is "booked". Connections can only be refused if MCD issues a formal notification confirming that the property is under demolition or sealing. Govt has also directed Discoms and MCD to coordinate closely to ensure accurate property status information. For years, residents of properties flagged by MCD faced difficulties obtaining electricity connections. Even in cases where demolition notices were issued, legal delays and administrative hurdles often left families without legal access to power, forcing reliance on unsafe alternatives and contributing to widespread electricity theft in several areas.

CM Gupta said denying basic services such as electricity was unjustifiable. She said that access to essential amenities is a fundamental right.

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2 arrested in separate cases of child pornography

New Delhi: Delhi Police has apprehended two people in separate cases for uploading and transmitting Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) after receiving alerts from the National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)

According to police, the cases originated from the cyber tipline reports generated by the NCMEC and forwarded by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs for prompt action.

"Two FIRs were registered under Section 67B of the IT Act, which deals with offences related to child sexual content online," the police officer said.

The first accused, a juvenile was traced and apprehended. In the second case, a 54-year-old man was arrested from Chattarpur extension. PTI

Court clears man in cop's assault case

New Delhi: A court here has acquitted a man accused of assaulting a police constable after he was caught consuming liquor in the open in 2016, saying the prosecution's version was "highly improbable and hard to believe".

Senior civil judge Pragati was hearing the case against the accused, Ashish Joshi, against whom Anand Vihar police station had registered an FIR for the offences of obstructing, causing hurt and assaulting a public servant to prevent him from discharging his duties.

It alleged that after being caught, the accused gave fist blows to Kumar's stomach and nose, and he also tore his uniform.

Advocate Manish Bhadauria, counsel for the accused, said his client had consumed only one bottle of beer and had gone to buy another when two police officials stopped him, "thrashed" him and "demanded" Rs 500. Bhadauria claimed that while trying to protect himself, Joshi's elbow hit the constable's nose, causing him injuries. PTI

RED LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Vinay Gupta

Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway experienced a massive traffic jam on Monday evening after a vehicle caught fire on the stretch towards Delhi, disrupting the rush-hour traffic flow. Police said the expressway stretch between Shankar Chowk and Sirhaul border saw long tailbacks

'500km stretches of roads to be fixed by March'

New Delhi: Delhi govt will repair 500-km-long stretches of roads across the national capital by March 2026, PWD minister Parvesh Verma said on Monday.

The minister made an inspection visit in south Delhi's Lajpat Nagar and Amar Colony areas along with local MLAs and PWD officials.

Every year the city suffers from air pollution during the winter months, and one of the factors for the pollution is the dust generated on roads from moving vehicles.

"We have received Rs 800 crore from central govt, which is being utilised. Further, we also have an assurance from the Centre for more fund allocation in the future after this fund is spent on road and repair work," Verma said.

Earlier this year, under the road dust mitigation plan, Verma held a meeting with PWD officials, where the status of 153 ongoing road repair projects was reviewed.

Last month, central govt had approved Rs 803 crore for Delhi to take up road infrastructure-related projects. The funds were approved under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF).

The repair work would include re-carpeting, patchwork, pothole repair and restoration of roads cut by other agencies. PTI

DTU exemption for PhD entrance exam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Technological University has approved an exemption from the entrance examination for certain PhD admissions, introducing a relaxation aimed at specific categories of applicants. The university has issued a notification outlining the criteria.

"This exemption will apply to DTU's non-teaching employees who completed at least 3 years of continuous service," an official said, adding that they will no longer be required to sit for the PhD entrance test. However, they must obtain a No Objection Certificate from the competent authority to appear for the interview.

The university has also clarified that these candidates will be admitted only as part-time PhD scholars and will not be eligible for any university fellowship.

The notification extends the exemption to officials of Delhi govt and central govt. Academic and non-academic officials will also qualify for the relaxation, provided they completed at least five years of regular service. With an NOC from the authority, they can bypass the written exam and take part in the interview process.

The move is intended to promote research by enabling experienced professionals and long-serving employees to pursue doctoral work without the barrier of an entrance test.

5 held after man beaten to death in Bawana

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Three murder cases were reported across the city over the past few days, with police arresting seven suspects in two incidents.

Five men were arrested after a 28-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death at a factory in Bawana on suspicion of theft, police said on Monday. A beat officer alerted the local police station about the alleged incident inside the premises. A team from Bawana police station reached the site in Sector 3 and found a body with multiple injury marks dumped in the basement. The deceased was identified as Mohit (28).

DCP (outer north) Hareshwar V Swami said factory owner Amit Tiwari and four workers Vipin Kumar, Hari Om Paliwal, Ashok Kumar Jha and Sonu were arrested.

Two arrests were made in another murder case in Yamuna Khadar near Khajuri Chowk. Uneeb Ahmad, 26, and Banti Singh, 43, were arrested for allegedly killing a man while posing as women to lure and rob passersby.

In another incident, the body of 32-year-old Angad, a wood polish worker from Mayapuri and resident of Basai Darapur, was found in the bushes with a deep cut on his neck near the railway line.

Eased cut-off dates, simpler norms for unused EWS flats

AlokKNMishra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi govt is revising the 2015 Delhi Slum & JJ Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy and will introduce simplified eligibility norms for allotting thousands of unused EWS flats, with key criteria expected to include a post-2015 cut-off date, annual household income below Rs 3 lakh, no ownership of a pucca house, and no previous allotment under any govt housing scheme.

Finalised by the previous AAP govt, the old policy was approved in 2016. However, nearly 50,000 EWS flats remained vacant for years due to a prolonged tussle between Delhi and central govts. Centre wanted a large portion allotted under the Affordable Rental Housing Scheme under PM Awas Yojana while AAP-led Delhi govt said the move was "impractical" as no jhuggi-dweller would be ready to shift to a rental accommodation. The flats, it said, must be allotted as permanent homes under Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojana.

Now, with both govts under BJP, officials expect some progress. Over the past two months, three review meetings were held, during which urban development minister Ashish Sood asked officials to expedite the new policy. Central govt is directly monitoring the scheme, said officials.

Constructed under several housing and rehabilitation schemes, several flats in Baprola, Savda Ghevra, Narela and Rohini were meant to shift slum-dwellers to affordable housing. Years of non-use, however, led to theft of bathroom fittings, doors and windows, leaving the flats dilapidated.

50,000 EWS FLATS VACANT

Spread across
- Sultanpuri, Jahangirpuri/ Bhalswa, Narela, Bawana, Savda Ghevra, Baprola, Rohini
- Constructed in phases between 2007 and 2017
- First batches came up under JNNURM and other rehabilitation projects
- Later housing complexes came up in Savda Ghevra, Bhalswa, Sultanpuri

Why Flats Remained Unallotted

Centre-state tussle stalled allotment

Centre | Wanted flats used as Affordable Rental Housing Complexes under PM Awas Yojana

Delhi govt under AAP | Wanted them as permanent ownership under Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojana

Condition of Unused Flats
- Broken doors and windows
- Stolen bathroom fittings
- Water damage and structural decay

In the first phase, Delhi govt will repair the most salvageable flats. CM Rekha Gupta has urged departments to act 'with urgency'. It is unclear whether allotment will take place via draw or lottery. Ownership rights are being considered, though some clusters may be offered on a rental basis

In Aug, CM Rekha Gupta and Sood inspected the flats in Sultanpuri. Gupta blamed AAP's "indifference and malicious policies" due to which flats "ready since 2011 remained deserted". She said Delhi govt will renovate these flats and allot them to slum-dwellers.

Centre has sanctioned Rs 732 crore to Delhi govt. "The cut-off date is likely to be relaxed," said an official. Under the previous policy, only slum-dwellers residing in jhuggis that existed before Jan 1, 2006 were eligible, and their names had to appear in at least one voter list between 2012 and 2015 and be part of the joint DUSIB-land agency survey. Officials said the new policy aims to be more inclusive.

In the first phase, govt will repair the most salvageable flats. CM has urged departments to act "with urgency". It is unclear whether allotment will take place via draw or lottery. Ownership rights are being considered, though some clusters may be offered on a rental basis. The urban development department is expected to release a draft policy soon to seek public feedback.

Anubrotto Kumar (Dunu) Roy, director, Hazard Centre, said the flats cannot be effectively revived unless employment opportunities, transport services, water and sewer connections, and schools are planned around the sites. "Unless basic needs are fulfilled, the slum-dwellers would be unwilling to shift," said Roy.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
e-NIT is invited by the District Engineer, Jhargram Zilla Parishad, Ref: JGM/ZP/N-59/2025-26 (Sl. No-1) Tender id 2025_ZPHD_949960_1 PS area under Jhargram Zilla Parishad. Technical and Financial bid submission closing date & time 10.12.2025 upto 12:30 Hours.
All details can be obtained from the website www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.jhargram.gov.in.
Sd/-
District Engineer
Jhargram Zilla Parishad
Memo No.: 166(2)/Adv/JICA Date: 17.11.2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
e-tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Howrah Electrical Division, Onkarmal Jetia Road, Howrah-711103. NIT No. WBPWD/EE/HED/NIQ-23 (2nd Call) of 2025-2026. Memo. 2700 Dt. 14.11.2025, Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_949568_1. Name of Work: Operation of Lifts by Providing Lift operator at New Collectorate Building and District Level Office, Howrah for 01 (One) year. Last Date of Submission: 09.12.2025. Intending bidder may download the Tender/Quotation documents from the website : www.pwd.wb.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Howrah Electrical Division ICA- T23261(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WBSRLM. Dept of P&RD
Govt. of W.B.
E-Tender Notice
Tender ID: 2025_PRD_951356_1
Work Name-Engagement of Courier Agency for distribution of Khadya Chaya Uniforms, Last date of Bid Submission-12.12.2025. Details may be downloaded from https://wbtenders.gov.in
ICA-T23257(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Abridged e-Tender Notice
NIT No:WBFOR/STR/DFD/NIT/JICA/02(e)/2025-26 2nd Call. Work : Supply of High Density Polyethylene insulated Braided Steel net fencing in Sundarban Tiger Reserve. Last date of bid submission : 12.12.2025, 12:00 P.M. for more details, Please visit: www.sundarbantigerreserve.org www.westbengal.forest.gov.in & https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Deputy Field Director, Sundarban Tiger Reserve.
ICA- T23250(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Ref No.: WBPWD/EE/S24PED/eNIT37_2nd Call/2025-26,
(Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_949243_1)
Online Tender is hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, PWD, South 24 Parganas Electrical Division, 57/2, Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata-700023 from the eligible contractors for the following works: Name of Work: Repairing of existing fire detection devices including 01 (One) year AMC at Diamond Harbour Old Hospital Building, Covid Building, DRS building under DHGMCH. Bid submission start: 22.11.25 at 09:00 AM. Bid Submission end: 09.12.25 at 01:00 PM. Bid Opening Date: 11.12.25 at 01:30 PM. Details of eNIT, BOQ & tender document may be downloaded from https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, South 24 Parganas Electrical Division ICA- T23234(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
O/O the Superintending Engineer, PWD
South-Western Electrical Circle,
Sahid Mangal Pandey Sarani,
Midnapur-721101
Notice Inviting e-Quotation
NIeQ No. WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIQ 29/2025-26, Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_949682_1. Last date of submission of bid :- 06.12.2025 up to 02.30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Electrical Installation works of proposed (G+IV) storeyed 50 Bedded Critical Care Block at Bankura sammilani Medical College & Hospital, Bankura--SITC of Fire Detection & Alarming system. Further details can be seen in the above mentioned office during working hours or in Official Website www.pwdwb.gov.in For all details and online tender submission visit https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- A. BISWAS, SE, SWEC, PWDte.
ICA- T23237(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Superintending Engineer, Western Electrical Circle, P.W.D. invites online e-Tender for the work of Providing dedicated skilled manpower for data entry, maintenance and troubleshooting of Computer Accessories at the office of the Executive Engineer, Asansol Electrical Division, PWD. eNIQ No. WBPWD/SSEWEC/AED/ NIQ-28/2025-26. Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_949643_1. Bid submission start date (online): 21.11.2025 from 03:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date (online): 10.12.2025 upto 11.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.Q. and Tender documents may be downloaded from : http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Sr. Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Western Electrical Circle
ICA- T23238(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
E.E., Nadia Highway Divn. No-II, P.W.(Roads) Dte., Kalyani, Nadia invites tender for (Sl. No.: 01) Restoration of water logged zone at Ranaghat-Aranghata (New) Road from Ch. 1.685 Km to Ch. 1.800 Km under Quality Control Sub-Division No-I. Estimated Amount put to Tender: Rs. 10,56,344.00. (Sl. No.: 02) Temporary restoration work in patches due to excessive Rainfall on Bishnupur - Aishmali Road from Ch. 1.50 Km to Ch. 4.00 Km under Quality Control Sub-Division No-I, Estimated Amount put to Tender: Rs. 13,58,590.00. (Sl. No.: 03) Geotechnical Soil investigation for Construction of proposed Bridge over River Chariganga at 7.5 km of Gobindapur Byepass to Mukundapur Road (2nd call). Estimated Amount put to Tender: Rs. 6,63,380.00. NIeT NO. 06 (Sl. No. 1, 2 & 3) of EE/NHD-II, P.W.(Roads)Dte. Tender Id: 2025_WBPWD_949881_1, 2 & 3. Bid Submission start date & time (online): 15.11.2025 from 5.00 p.m. Bid Submission end date & time (online): 10.12.2025 upto 12.00 hrs. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and tender Documents may be downloaded from http://wbtenders.gov.in Date: 14.11.2025. Sd/- (P. BHATTACHARJEE), Executive Engineer, Nadia Highway Division No.-II, P.W.(Roads)Direct.
ICA- T23235(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, Nadia Division, P.W.Dte. invites online e-tender (e-NIT No. 12 of 2025-26 of EE, ND, P.W.Dte.) for the work of Sl. 1: Repairing & renovation of Police Guard room adjacent of EVM Warehouse situated within the Collectorate campus (Rs. 1,77,184.00). Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_949525_1. Bid submission start date (online): 03/12/2025 from 02:30 P.M. Bid submission end date (online): 10/12/2025 up to 02:30 P.M. Sl. 2: Rehabilitation works of Bridge at 5.20 Kmp of Karimpur Shikarpur Road under Nadia Division (Rs. 12,96,848.00). Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_949525_2. Bid submission start date (online): 26/11/2025 from 02:30 P.M. Bid submission end date (online): 10/12/2025 up to 02:30 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender document may be downloaded from: http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Nadia Division, P.W.Dte.
ICA- T23236(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, HOWRAH
Ref:- NIT No. CMOH/HOW/Estt./3588 Dated- 13/11/2025
Re-E-Tender (2nd Call)
E-Tender is hereby invited for Providing 01(one) Work Assistant at Engineering Wing of DPMU, under O/o The CMOH, Howrah, (Last date of application : 30/11/2025). Tender Starting Date : 19/11/2025). Visit at www.wbtenders.gov.in & http://www.wbhealth.gov.in, www.healthyhowrah.org.in Sd/- CMOH, Howrah.
ICA- T23206(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD Tender/Quotation Notice
Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte., Kolkata Electrical Division,. invites e-tender for the work of "SITC of Air Conditioning Machines at proposed I & CA Department at Block - II, 2nd Floor, Writers' Buildings." Vide e-tender no. WBPWD/EEKED/eNIQ-34Q/25-26. Tender id : 2025_WBPWD_949885_1 Bid submission end date is 12.12.2025 upto 12:00 P.M. Details of Tender documents incl. Corrigendum, if any will be available at website: http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte Kolkata Electrical Division.
ICA- T23240(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WRI&DD e-NIT
Executive Engineer (A-I), Bankura (A-I) Division, WRDD invites e-tenders For Installation of 11 nos LDTW / LDTW(S) vide e- NIT Ref. No. WBWRIDD/EE (AI) /BANKURA/e NIT 12/2025-26 (Sl. No. 01 to 11) Tender ID 2025_WRDD_949523_1 to 11, Maximum values of works Rs. 9,45,524.46; Last dropping date is 10.12.2025 up to 3.30 P.M. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website http//wbtenders.gov.in for details.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (A-I)
Bankura(AI)Division.
ICA- T23227(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
[(N.I.T. No. 454/Jt.MD/WBSTC dated- 14.11.2025)]
(A bridged e-Tender)
e-Tender, in prescribed from in two parts viz. Technical & Financial Bids is invited for the work below :- Unloading the gangway from pontoon deck and external surface painting of Pontoon S.P.-VIII, Tender I.D.: 2025_WBSTC_945229_1 and Tender Ref. No : WBSTC/JMD/MARINE/NIT-30(e)/25-26 To be Published on 18.11.2025 at 09:00 A.M. Please visit website : www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Jt. Managing Director, For W.B.S.T.C. Ltd.
ICA- T23256(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WRI&DD. e-NIT
e-NIT 20 of 2025-26, SL-01 to 5 ID: 2025_WRDD_950311_1 to 5 for "Installation of Solar operated LDTW cluster in different block under the District-Paschim Medinipur under Midnapore(AI)Sub-Division under Midnapore(AI)Division under Matir Shristi Program for the Financial Year 2025-26 "maximum amount put to tender ₹7554497.00 Last date & time of submission is 11.12.2025 upto 09.00AM has been invited by the Executive Engineer (A-I), Midnapore (A-I) Division from Bonafide agency having similar type of work credential. other details may also be seen from the website wbtenders.gov.in for details. & e-NIT 21 of 2025-26, SL-01 ID: 2025_WRDD_950317_1 for "Construction of Gopali Check Dam at Mouza-Gopali, Plot No-356, 536, 533, 534, 288, 926, Block-Kharagpur-I in the District of Paschim Midnapore under the Executive Engineer (AI) Midnapore (AI) Division under MATIR SHRISTI Program for the Financial Year 2025-26." maximum amount put to tender ₹11689558.00 Last date & time of submission is 11.12.2025 upto 09.00 AM has been invited by the Executive Engineer (A-I), Midnapore (A-I) Division from Bonafide agency having similar type of work credential. other details may also be seen from the website wbtenders.gov.in for details. & e-NIT 22 of 2025-26, SL-01 to 02ID: 2025_WRDD_950320_1 to 2 for "Re-Excavation of WHT under Block-Garhbeta-II & Salboni under the District-Paschim Medinipur under Midnapore(AI) Sub-Division under Midnapore(AI) Division under Matir Shristi Program for the Financial Year 2025-26" maximum amount put to tender ₹4602348.00 Last date & time of submission is 11.12.2025 upto 09.00AM has been invited by the Executive Engineer (A-I), Midnapore (A-I) Division from Bonafide agency having similar type of work credential. other details may also be seen from the website wbtenders.gov.in for details.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (AI),
Midnapore (AI) Division
ICA- T23249(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
The Executive Engineer, North Bengal Construction Division, PWD, Siliguri, on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal invites e-Tender for Ten nos. work, details of which may be had from the office of the undersigned on working days during the office hours or on website: https://wbtenders.gov.in or at www.pwdwb.in NIT Ref. No: WB/PWD/EE/NBCD/NIT/25/2025-2026 (Sl. No. 1 to 10). NIT ID: 2025_WBPWD_949906_1, 2025_WBPWD_949906_2, 2025_WBPWD_949906_3, 2025_WBPWD_949906_4, 2025_WBPWD_949906_5, 2025_WBPWD_949906_6, 2025_WBPWD_949906_7, 2025_WBPWD_949906_8, 2025_WBPWD_949906_9, 2025_WBPWD_949906_10. Bid submission End Date for the work : 10.12.2025 upto 02.00 PM. Eligibility : Bonafide Resourceful Contractors. Note:- Any subsequent corrigendum if necessary will be published on website only. Sd/- Executive Engineer (PWD), North Bengal Construction Division, Siliguri
ICA- T23233(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
EE, Jhargram Highway Division, P.W.(Roads) Directorate invites online Name of the Work : Serial : 1 : Construction of RCC drain for drainage of Strom Water at Manikpara - Khalseuli Road from 0.00 Km to 0.810 Km. Estimated Amount : Rs. 53,70,805.90. Serial : 2 : Construction of 1 (One) no 1200 mm dia HP Culvert for drainage of Storm Water at Chainage 29.805 Km of Dahijuri - Binpur - Silda - Hatiary Road. Estimated Amount : Rs. 46,49,131.00. Tender ID : 2025_WBPWD_950041_1/2/3. e-NIT NO : 08 of 2025-26. Bid Submission Closing Date (Online): 10.12.2025 upto 17.00 Hrs. Corrigendum if any will be Published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender Documents may be downloaded from : http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jhargram Highway Division, PW(Roads) Directorate
ICA- T23232(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WRI&DD. e-NIT
Executive Engineer (A-M), Berhampore II (A-M) Division invites e-tender for Installation of Khosbaspur Kuthirpar new major RLI scheme under Berhampore-II (A-M) Division under Core Sector Programme. e-NIT no: WRDD/EE(AM)/CS/BER-II/eNIT-17/2025-26 & Tender ID: 2025_WRDD_950306_1. Last dropping date is 10.12.2025 up to 11.00 AM. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website http//wbtenders.gov.in for details.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (A-M)
Berhampore II (A-M) Division
ICA- T23226(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
W.B. MINORITIES DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION
e-Tender Notice
NIe-T No. "WCFF-1 of 2025-26"
WBMDFC invites e- tenders for the work of "Preparation and fitting, fixing of wooden cabinet at 1st floor the H/Q office building of WBMDFC at Salt Lake, Sector-1 Kol-64. The Last date of submission of bid is 20.12.2025 up to 3:30 p.m. Corrigendum or addendum, if any, will be uploaded only in the Corporation's website. For further details please visit our website www.wbmdfc.org and http://wbtenders.gov.in Toll Free No. 1800-120-2130 Sd/- Managing Director.
ICA- T23201(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Bid ref. no.:- WBMSCL/NIT-924/2025; Dated-14/11/2025
Operation & Maintenance Work for Mother and Child Hub (MCH) at Diamond Harbour Govt. Medical College & Hospital. Last date of submission of bid (online) – 11.12.2025 up to 09:30 A.M. The tender document can be downloaded from www.wbtenders.gov.in on or after 18.11.2025 at 12:00 A.M. Clarification requests, if any may be sent to info@wbmsc.gov.in Sd/- General Manager, WBMSCL.
ICA- T23228(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Abridge e-Tender Notice
No. DFOBKN(e) 84 TO 86/SP OF 2025-26
e-Tenders are invited from Agencies/ Contractors for maintenance of energized power fencing & re-excavation of pond. Start date of bid submission 21-11-25, Last date of bid submission dated 28-11-2025 at 05:00 P.M. & Technical bid opening date 01-12-25 at 11:00 A.M. For participating in the e-tender visit https://wbtenders.gov.in This advertisement are also given www.westbengalforest.gov.in Sd/- J.Sheik Fareed, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Bankura (North) Division.
ICA- T23194(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
IRRIGATION AND WATERWAYS DIRECTORATE
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-NIT NO.- WBIW/EE/DHWD/ e-NIT-21(e)/2025-26
e-Tender is hereby invited on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal from the eligible bonafide contractors for 05 (five) no. of work. Last date & time of Bid submission is 02.12.2025 till 11:00 Hrs. IST Details of Tender may be seen at https://wbtenders.gov.in or https://wbiwd.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Damodar Head Works Division.
ICA- T23197(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the Executive Engineer-I
Damodar Canal Division, Court Compound,
Purba Bardhaman, Pin- 713101
e-Tender Notice
No- WBIW/EE-I/DCD/e-NIT-26/2025-26
e-Tender is hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal from the eligible contractors for 13 (Thirteen) nos. work under SDS/NP. Last date & time of Bid submission is 10.12.2025. Details of Tender Notice may be seen at https://wbtenders.gov.in or https://wbiwd.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer-I, Damodar Canal Division.
ICA- T23223(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
S.E., Western Circle-I, P.W.D. invites online e-Tender for the works of : 1) "Construction of Storm water drain near Bartoria Bazar from 12.10 km to 12.60 km (Both side) and near Harmadihi Hospital from 15.20 km to 16.00 km (Both side) and near Gobag More 19.60 km to 20.10 km (Both side) of Barakar Purulia Road (Sh-5) under Purulia Division PWD in the district of Purulia." Estimated amount : Rs. 4,49,72,809/- 2) "Construction of Storm water drain near Neturia Bazar from 8.70 km to 9.70 km (Both side) and near Sarbari More from 10.00 km to 10.80 km (Both side) of Barakar Purulia Road (Sh-5) under Purulia Division PWD in the district of Purulia." Estimated amount : Rs. 4,46,20,870/- Tender ID : 2025_PWD_949697_1 & 2. e-NIT No.-12 of 2025-26 Bid submission start date (online) : 20.11.2025 at 3:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date (online) : 12.12.2025 upto 1:00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of e-NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from : http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- S.E.W.C.-I, P.W.D.
ICA- T23239(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, HOWRAH
Ref: - NIE-T No. CMOH/DHFWS/2661/25 dated - 13/11/2025
Re-E-Tender (2nd Call)
E-Tender is hereby invited 1) "For SUPPLY OF 15 KW/300 MA or more High Frequency X-ray machine with DR System" bearing NIT no. CMOH/DHFWS/How/2661/25, dated: 13/11/2025. (Last date of application:-03/12/2025). Tender Starting date:-19/11/2025). Visit at www.wbtenders.gov.in & http://www.wbhealth.gov.in www.healthyhowrah.org.in Sd/- Chief Medical Officer of Health, Howrah.
ICA- T23207(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, PWD, Kolkata South Division invites e-Tender vide-NIT No. EE/KSD/NIT-16E/2025-26 for the work:-APC Roy Polytechnic, Jadavpur, Kolkata-700032---Old Building (three storied) --- Roof treatment work. Tender Id: 2025_WBPWD_949374_1. Estimated Amount : i) Rs. 32,84,634.00. Date of uploading of N.I.T. Documents (Online) (Publishing Date) (online) 18.11.2025 from 10:00 AM. Technical & financial bid proposal Submission end date (Online) 09.12.2025 at 10:00 AM. Details of e-NIT and other documents may be downloaded from https://wbtenders.gov.in Corrigendum, if any will be published in the said departmental website only. Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Kolkata South Division
ICA- T23242(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
WBPWD/EE/S24PGSD/e-NIT 14/2025-2026
EE, S-24Pgs. Divn. PWD, invites e-tender for 1 (One) no work within jurisdiction of this Division, "Construction of storm water Hume pipe drain on RHS from 20.80 km to 21.75 Km of Budge Budge Trunk Road." Details of the e-NIT will be available in the office Notice Board as well as in the visit the website http://wbtenders.gov.in & http://wbpwd.gov.in Last Date of Bid Submission (Online) 10-12-2025 Upto 12 Noon. Tender Id No. 2025_WBPWD_949800_1. Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, South 24 Parganas Division
ICA- T23231(3)/2025

Govt. of West Bengal
Notice Inviting Tender
Notice inviting e-tender for selection of agency for publicity campaign of West Bengal Tourism through the mode of Virtual Reality. Tender ID:-2025_WBTD_951313_1. Last date of submission: 12-12-2025 N.B. - The details are available in the website of the Tourism (www.wbtourism.gov.in and www.wbtenders.gov.in), Block-A, Kolkata-700001.
Sd/-Additional Director & Ex-Officio Joint Secretary,Department of Tourism, Govt. of West Bengal.
ICA- T23251(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
S.E., Western Circle-I, P.W.D. invites online e-Tender for the works of : 1) "Construction of Storm water drain near Bartoria Bazar from 12.10 km to 12.60 km (Both side) and near Harmadihi Hospital from 15.20 km to 16.00 km (Both side) and near Gobag More 19.60 km to 20.10 km (Both side) of Barakar Purulia Road (Sh-5) under Purulia Division PWD in the district of Purulia." Estimated amount : Rs. 4,49,72,809/- 2) "Construction of Storm water drain near Neturia Bazar from 8.70 km to 9.70 km (Both side) and near Sarbari More from 10.00 km to 10.80 km (Both side) of Barakar Purulia Road (Sh-5) under Purulia Division PWD in the district of Purulia." Estimated amount : Rs. 4,46,20,870/- Tender ID : 2025_PWD_949697_1 & 2. e-NIT No.-12 of 2025-26 Bid submission start date (online) : 20.11.2025 at 3:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date (online) : 12.12.2025 upto 1:00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of e-NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from : http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- S.E.W.C.-I, P.W.D.
ICA- T23239(3)/2025

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office : Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN : U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in
2nd Extension of Time
Ref. original NIT No.: TCFHP/e-Tender/25-26/14, Dtd.: 08.09.2025 of the Project Manager, Teesta Canal Fall Hydel Project, WBSEDCL. Bid Submission End Date is hereby further extended up to 04.12.2025 (11:00 Hrs.).
ICA- T23211(3)/2025
For details, visit https://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbsedcl.in

Cooch Behar Zilla Parishad
Cooch Behar
Notice Inviting Quotation (in brief)
Sealed rate quotation is hereby invited on behalf of Cooch Behar Zilla Parishad for making infrastructure including departmental helpdesk, stage arrangement, interactive session hall arrangement and other for Synergy and Business Facilitation Conclave, 2025-26 at 'Utsab Auditorium', Cooch Behar through off-line vide NIQ No. WBZP/02/DE-MQ/COB/2025-26 for which the last date submission of quotation is 24.11.2025 upto 4.00 p.m.
Sd/-
Additional Executive Officer
Cooch Behar Zilla Parishad
Cooch Behar
Memo No.: 213/ICA/ADD/COB Dated, Cooch behar, 17.11.2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
DFO Purba Medinipur Forest Division invites e-Tenders from eligible bidders/ suppliers having experience of similar type of works for 1) WBFOR/DFOPMFD/e-NIT 17/Repair and Maintenance of Gr-C Quarter/SPAP of 2025-26 - Repair and maintenance of Gr-C quarter, 2) WBFOR/DFOPMFD/e-NIT 18/ Repair and Maintenance of Gr-D Quarter/ SPAP of 2025-26 - Repair and maintenance of Gr-D quarter, 3) WBFOR/DFOPMFD/e-NIT 19/ Development of Eco-tourism and Nature Education (Pt-1)/SPAP of 2025-26 - Development of Eco-tourism and Nature Education (Pt-1), 4) WBFOR/DFOPMFD/e-NIT 20/Development of Eco-tourism and Nature Education (Pt-2)/SPAP of 2025-26-Development of Eco-tourism and Nature Education (Pt-2), 5) WBFOR/DFOPMFD/e-NIT 21/Creation and improvement of Parks & Garden (Pt-1)/ SPAP of 2025-26 - Creation and improvement of Parks & Garden (Pt-2) and 6) WBFOR/DFOPMFD/e-NIT 22/Creation and improvement of Parks & Garden (Pt-2)/ SPAP of 2025-26- Creation and improvement of Parks & Garden (Pt-2) under Purba Medinipur Forest Division. The NITs will be published in the portal https://wbtenders.gov.in and the bid submission start from and the bid submission start from 20.11.2025 (5:00 PM) to 01.12.2025 (5:00 PM). For further details, eligible bidders are requested to download the Tender Notice from website or visit office. Sd/- Shri Arnab Sengupta, WBFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Purba Medinipur Forest Division, Tamluk, Purba Medinipur.
ICA- T23191(3)/2025

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MATHURA-VRINDAVAN
NIT No. 138/NNMV/2025-26 Dated 17/11/2025
E-Procurement Tender Notice
Municipal Corporation, Mathura-Vrindavan invites E-Tender from registered/eligible contractors/firms for various works under Chief Minister Green Road Infrastructure Development Scheme (CM-GRIDS). Unregistered contractor /firms may also participate in the E-Tender as per Government order no. 3890/नौ-5-149सा/2019, नगर विकास अनुभाग-05 उ.प्र. शासन लखनऊ, दिनांक 20 सितम्बर 2019. Lowest selected bidder will have to register in the Municipal Corporation after fulfilling the necessary conditions. The details of registration can be obtained from Municipal Corporation on any working day or E-Tender document can be also seen on the e-tendering portal of Government of Uttar Pradesh. The bidders will have to deposit the tender fee and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for the http://etender.up.nic.in. site. The bidder has to necessarily upload the scanned copy of the deposit receipt for the tender fee and EMD along with tender document on the e-tendering portal. The critical dates for E-Tender are as follows-

Sl. No.	Nagar Nigam	Package No.	Included Roads	Length of Road (km)	Estimated Cost Excluding GST (Rs. Lakh)		Total Estimated Cost of Work (Rs. In Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. In Lakh)	Duration of Construction Work (In Months)	Tender Fee Including GST (Rs. In Lakh)
					Construction	Maintenance For 5 Years				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Mathura-Vrindavan	MVNN/CMG 24-25/ Pkg-1	Masani to Bhuteshwar Tiraha	1.583	2522.82	47.48	2570.30	52	15	35,000+ 18% GST

Timeline for Tender

Sl. No.	Events	Date/Time
1	Availability of tender documents on e-tendering portal	19.11.2025 10:00 AM
2	Last date of Submission of e-Bids on E-tender Portal	02.12.2025 03:00 PM
3	Date of Opening of tender	03.12.2025 11:00 AM

Any Corrigendum/addendum or any other additional information related to the tender will be available on e-tender portal i.e. http://etender.up.nic.in .
Chief Engineer
Nagar Nigam Mathura-Vrindavan

'Aadhaar data vault' to enhance security

Abhinav.Rajput
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In a move aimed at tightening the protection of citizens' personal information, Delhi govt will implement an 'Aadhaar data vault' (ADV) across key departments. According to govt sources, the system will ensure Aadhaar numbers and their related demographic information are kept only in an encrypted format.

At the heart of the vault is a mechanism that replaces the actual Aadhaar number with a reference key. This reference key, a less sensitive identifier, is used for day-to-day business transactions within govt platforms, while the real Aadhaar number remains encrypted and protected inside the vault. Officials said this would reduce the risk of unauthorised access.

Officials said the decision aligns with the guidelines issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which mandate requesting entities to store Aadhaar only in a highly secure environment. "The objective is to safeguard sensitive personal data and prevent any misuse in govt systems," an official said.

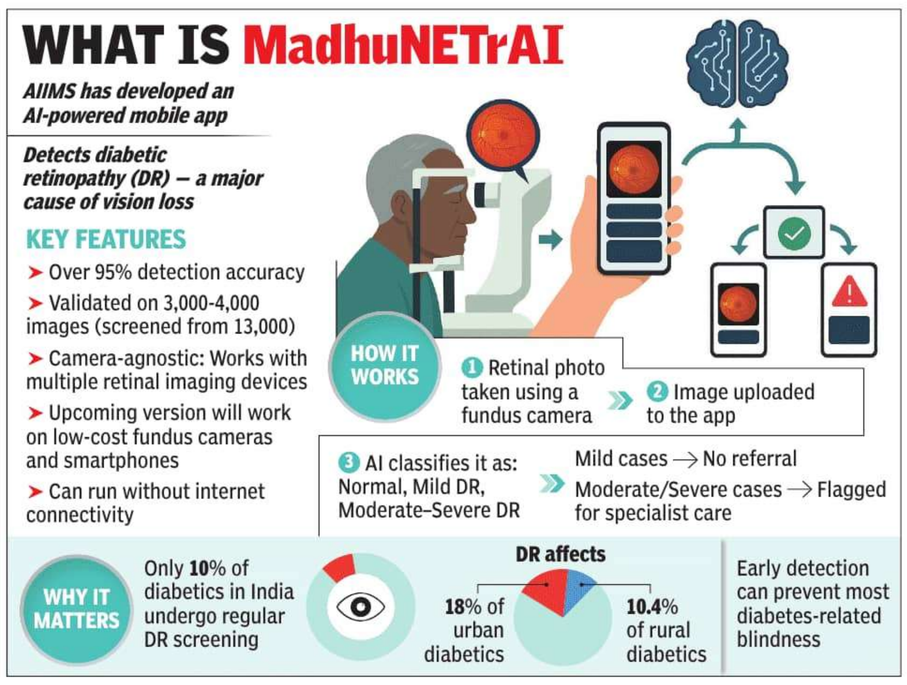
The vault also includes built-in security features, such as role-based access controls, audit trails, access logs and monitoring tools that track any attempt to view or retrieve Aadhaar data. "Every access attempt is logged. Only authorised personnel can handle encrypted Aadhaar data, and even they cannot view it directly," he said.

Delhi govt signed an agreement with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) to host e-District and Unified Database Hub Aadhaar data in the vault, he said. Technical teams from National Informatics Centre successfully completed testing the system on a staging server in Sept, and details of the production server are now being shared with CDAC for final deployment.

Officials said the decision was taken during a meeting held last week chaired by minister Pankaj Singh, who said there was a need for fast-tracking digital initiatives to create a unified framework that simplifies service delivery.

Remote Care: App To Detect Diabetic Eye Disease

AI-Powered AIIMS Application Targets Leading Cause Of Vision Loss, May Help Primary & District Health Centres



Anuja.Jaiswal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In a major step towards using artificial intelligence for preventive eye care, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, in collaboration with the e-health division of the Union health ministry and Wadhwani AI, has developed an AI-powered mobile application, MadhuNETrAI, to detect diabetic retinopathy (DR) — one of the leading causes of vision loss among diabetics.

Designed as a screening tool, the app analyses retinal images and flags early signs of diabetic retinopathy within seconds, enabling primary and district-level health centres to identify at-risk patients even without an on-site ophthalmologist. MadhuNETrAI, a term coined by AIIMS RP Centre chief Prof Radhika Tandon, reflects the integration of diabetes care, eye health and digital screening through AI.

Dr Rohan Chawla, a retina specialist and professor of ophthalmology at RP Centre, said the project represented one of the most rigorously validated AI-based eye-screening initiatives developed in India. "While many AI systems for diabetic retinopathy are being built, the key issue is validation. Most are tested on just 90 or 120 images, which isn't enough for clinical confidence. Our model was tested on over 3,000-4,000 retinal images, screened from nearly 13,000 in total. We now have over 95% detection accuracy," he said.

The app works by analysing photographs of the retina captured through a fundus camera — a specialised microscope with an attached camera used to image the retina, optic disc, macula and blood vessels. Once the image is uploaded, AI classifies it as normal, mild or moderate-to-severe diabetic retinopathy.

"Patients with mild changes don't need referral while moderate or severe cases are flagged for specialist attention," Dr Chawla explained. "The app is designed to be easy to use and can function even in low-resource settings."

The team is also developing a version that works seamlessly with multiple devices — such as low-cost fundus cameras and even smartphones — eliminating the need for internet connectivity during screening.

The app is currently under validation by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation as a medical AI software falls under the medical device category and requires regulatory certification.

"It took us two years to reach this stage. We hope to receive CDSCO's certification within the next six months," said Dr Chawla. "Once approved, we will recommend the ministry to scale it across India."

While the app itself will be freely deployable, the major cost lies in the fundus camera, costing around Rs 3 lakh per unit. Plans are underway to equip primary health centres and district hospitals with these cameras to expand screening in rural and semi-urban areas.

According to the recent national survey covering 93,000 people, only 10% of diabetics in India undergo regular screening for diabetic retinopathy — far below the WHO-SEARO target of 80% by 2030. The condition affects 18% of urban and 10.4% of rural diabetics, meaning nearly one in five urban diabetics is at risk of vision loss.

"Early detection can prevent most diabetes-related blindness," Dr Chawla said.

K-popular! These gadgets are making their mark at trade fair

Manushreya.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: South Korean lifestyle technology products are a hit at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) this year.

The country has already wowed global markets with its unbeatable skincare products that have stumped European brands. Korean smartphone technology also is a world beater. But IITF has shown that's not all the country can offer. The practical, easy-to-use gadgets, aimed at easing daily life, have generated the most buzz.

The South Korean brands have managed to seamlessly blend compact design with smart engineering to solve everyday problems.

Exhibitors are showcasing portable LED water flossers, showerheads infused with fragrant essential oil cartridges and air filters that can be attached to windows and doors.

The filter is a nano dustproof screen. While letting the air in, its multilayered filter structure captures fine dust and pollen. The portability and sleek design make these filters suitable for homes.

The portable LED water flosser is designed to offer deep cleaning in a compact, travel-friendly form. With a double-sided water-jet nozzle, the water flosser effectively cleans the front and back of the teeth at the same time as well as minimises irritation to the gums. Not only does it offer adjustable water pressure, but it is also safe for children, elderly and those who wear braces.

The aroma-infused showerheads are fitted with Vitamin C cartridges and fine filtration membranes that infuse fragrance into the water stream and filter out impurities at the same time. As water passes through the shower head, it removes chlorine and impurities while releasing essential oils or natural fragrances. This softens the water flow, making a daily shower seem like a spa experience, but while at home.

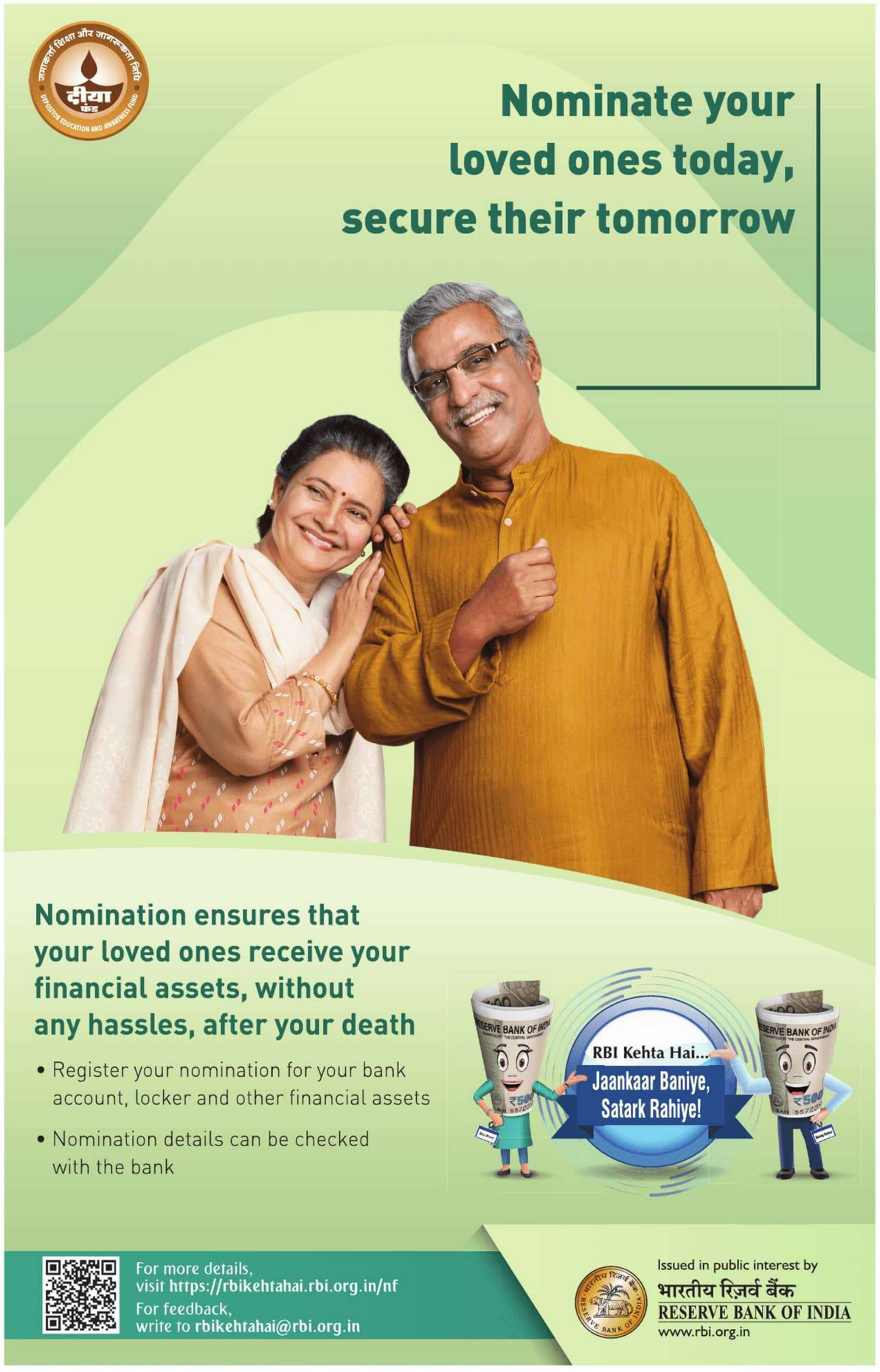
These products reflect South Korea's focus on merging wellness, convenience and innovation into tools that quietly upgrade day-to-day life.

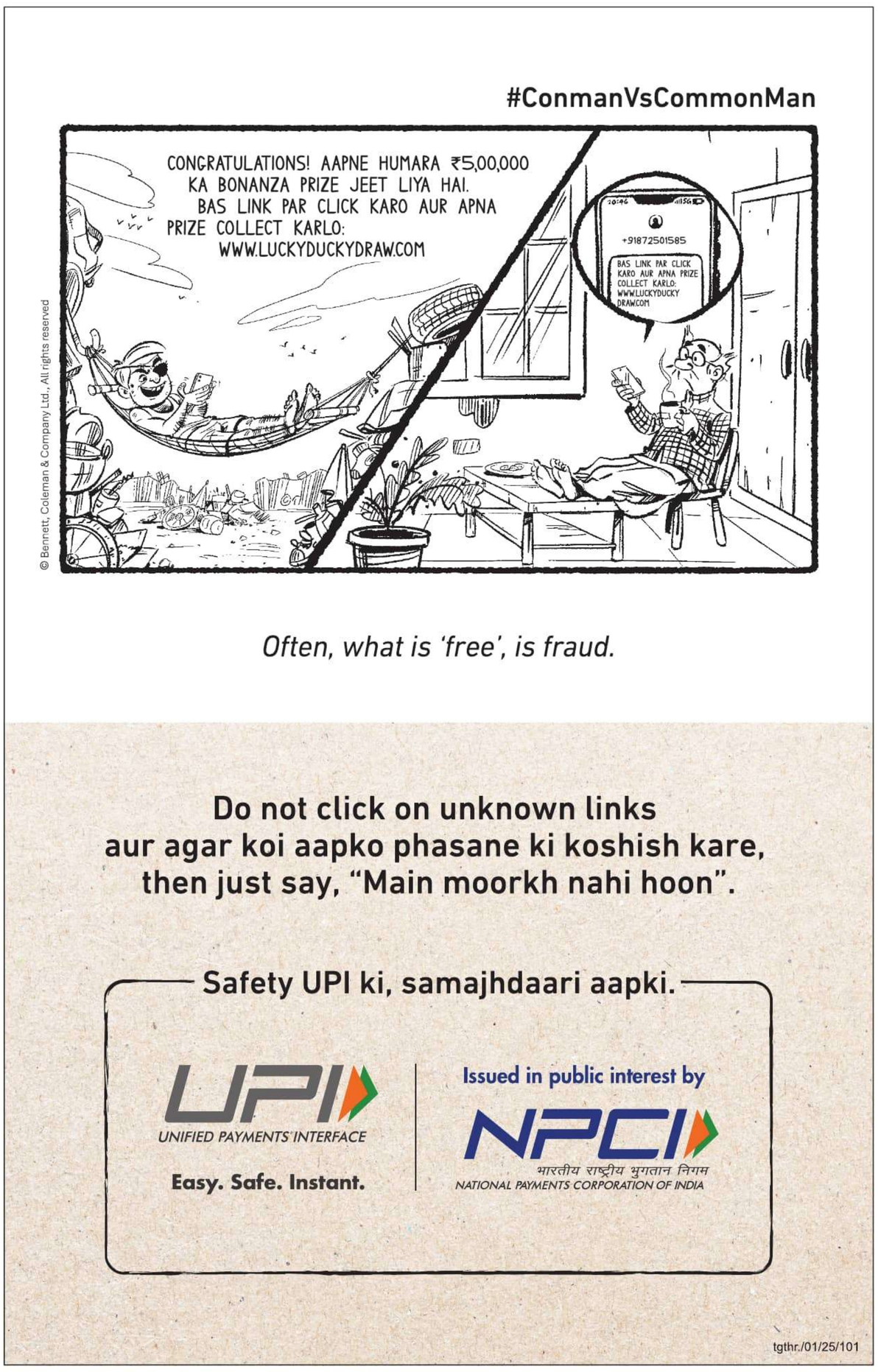
At the international pavilion in the H-1 hall of Bharat Mandapam, shoppers tasted dates, checked out Thai trinkets and ate Turkish desserts.

Indian artisans and weavers, too are drawing a steady footfall. Traditional textiles, regional handicrafts, and handmade decor from different states are adding colour to the Trade Fair. With its blend of global curiosities and Indian artistry, IITF is a showcase of how comfort, culture and creativity can come together under one roof.

Delhi cops display cyber forensic tools

High-tech cyber forensic tools and other police equipment were showcased at one of the four stalls of Delhi Police pavilion, inaugurated by police commissioner Satish Golchha at IITF. Key attractions included tools for extracting and analysing data from smartphones, backups and cloud sources, along with devices for duplication and high-performance imaging of digital storage media. TNN





TIMES NATION

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025

WHY ATTACK ONLY AJIT, TERNA TRUST NOW HEADED BY BJP MLA, SAYS SUPRIYA SULE AS ACTIVIST TARGETS COUSIN

MP HC STAYS ARREST WARRANT AGAINST TRINAMOOL MP ABHISHEK BANERJEE IN LIBEL SUIT FILED BY BJP NETA

HACK OF THE DAY — **FREE LAWYER FOR ANYONE (ALMOST) VIA NALSA**

WHAT IT SOLVES: National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) provides free and competent legal services, including a lawyer, court fees, witness expenses, and preparation of legal documents

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

1. All Women and Children (up to 18 years), irrespective of their income

2. Persons with a low annual income (limit varies by state, generally \le ₹3,00,000)

3. Industrial workmen, disabled persons, and victims of trafficking or mass disaster

HOW TO DO IT:

Approach the nearest District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) or Taluk Legal Services Committee (TLSC) office, typically located within the court complex

OR

Submit a simple written application, email, or apply via the NALSA portal

Scan for more hacks

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

Tip from **Richa.Gandhi**@timesofindia.com

Despite visa troubles, Indian students on US campuses up 10%; largest int'l group in '24-25

Undergrad Enrolments From India Rise 11%, That Of Grads Show Drop

Hemali Chhapia & Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

Mumbai/New Delhi: India remained the largest source of international students in the US in 2024-25, with 3,63,019 students registered on American campuses — a 10% rise over last year. The increase is slower than 2023-2024's dizzying 23% jump.

Tougher visa scrutiny, longer appointment queues and jitters over work-visa routes have done little to dent India's presence on American campuses. China, once the unchallenged frontrunner, continued to slide for the fifth straight year, this time by 4% to touch 2,65,919 students. Overall, international student enrolment in the US from across the globe dropped 7% and early signals hint at gathering headwinds. The Fall 2025 Snapshot reports a 1% dip in overall international numbers and a 17% plunge in new arrivals.

Indian students spent a total of $14 billion for their education, stay and other expenses in the US, almost matching China's spend of $14.6 billion, the highest by any nation. In 2023-24, Indians had spent $11.8 billion.

In 2024-25, undergraduate enrolments (see box) from India rose 11%, but graduate numbers, traditionally India's strongest stream, fell 9.5%. Optional Practical Training, that allows graduates to gain practical work experience after academic study, surged 47%. Globally, the number of new international students entering US institutions in the Fall of 2024 fell 7%, with new undergraduates up 5% but new graduate entrants down 15%. Data on Indian students showed that 63% enrolled in public institutions and 37% opted for private institutes. They mostly went to campuses in Texas, New York, Massachusetts, California and Illinois.

Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan told **TOI**, "Wherever Indian students go, they excel — not by chance, but by capability and character." He added, "Our youth are driving global classrooms, research labs, and innovation economies with the same confidence with which they are shaping India's own growth story."

"International students come to the US to advance their education and contribute to US colleges and communities," said Jason Czyz, Institute of International Education (IIE) president and CEO.

"This data highlights the impact international students have in driving innovation, advancing scholarship, and strengthening cross-cultural understanding."

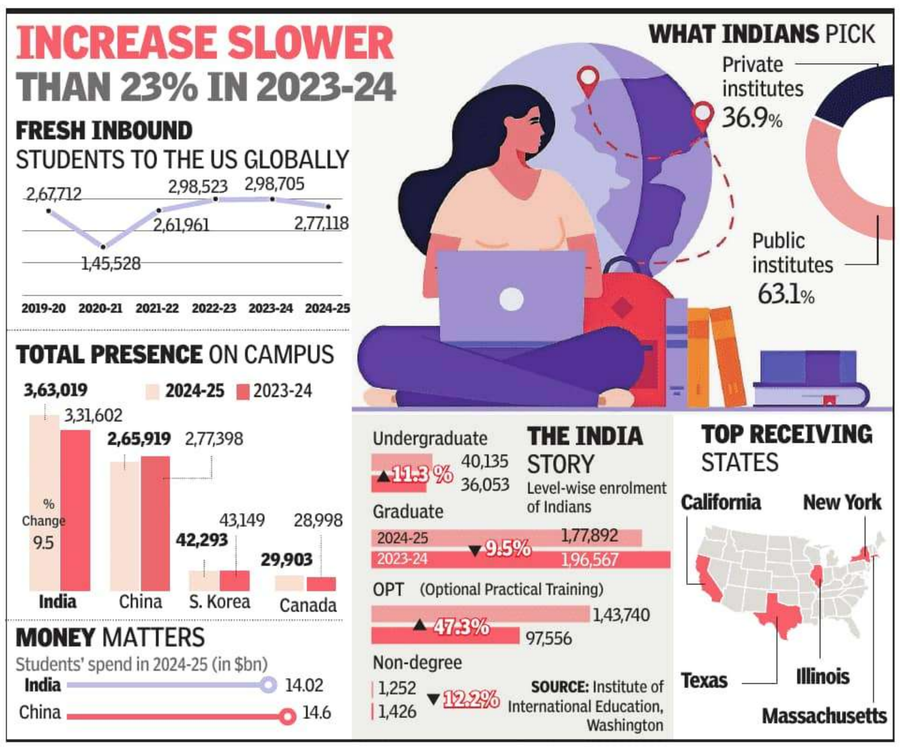
International students account for 6% of the total US higher education population. International students contributed nearly $55 billion to the US economy in 2024, according to the US department of commerce, and supported more than 3.5 lakh jobs across the US, according to NAFSA. The US remains the top destination for international students globally.

Twelve of the top 25 countries sending international students reached their largest totals to date — Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, Ghana, India, Italy, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Spain, and Vietnam.

For the upcoming admission season, US institutions are prioritising undergraduate outreach in Vietnam (55% of institutions which participated in the Snapshot survey), India (49%), Brazil (39%), and South Korea (39%).

Colleges and universities focusing on graduate recruitment are as follows: India (57%), Vietnam (32%), China (28%), and Bangladesh (28%).

The Snapshot Survey of Open Doors 2025 reveals an increase in undergraduates (+2%) and a decline in graduate (-12%) students. Due to several years of strong growth at the graduate level, OPT numbers continue to rise (+14%).



Iran suspends visa waiver for Indians

With Indian nationals being lured to Iran on false promises of employment and assurances of onward transit to third countries, Iran has suspended the visa waiver facility available to ordinary Indian passport holders visiting the country with effect from Nov 22, 2025. The Indian govt said in a statement this measure is intended to prevent further misuse of the facility by criminal elements and that from this date, Indian nationals with ordinary passports would be required to obtain a visa to enter or transit through Iran. TNN

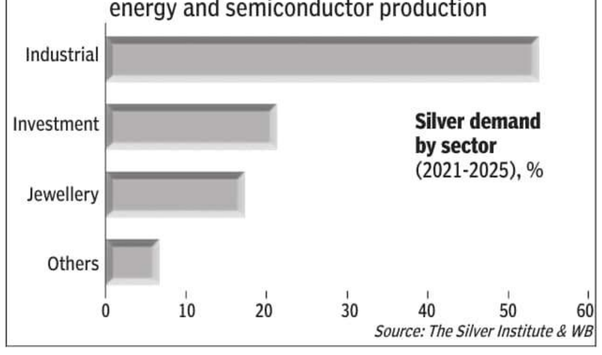
K'taka blackbuck toll at 31, zoos on alert

One more blackbuck died at Kittur Rani Chennamma Mini Zoo in Karnataka's Belagavi early Monday, raising the toll to 31 and prompting authorities to direct nine zoos across the state to step up vigilance to prevent the outbreak of the suspected bacterial disease haemorrhagic septicaemia among their animal population, reports **Pearl DSouza**. Zoo Authority of Karnataka issued an advisory on Sunday, with one more notification the following day. The advisory stressed the immediate removal and safe disposal of all carcasses as the first line of outbreak control.

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Green technology is a reason silver is on fire

Silver prices hit record highs — $54 per ounce in mid-Oct — as industrial demand has been surging. Over half of all silver now goes into renewable energy and semiconductor production



Source: The Silver Institute & WB

Jaishankar meets Lavrov, says bilateral ties in world's interest

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Ahead of the India-Russia annual summit next month, the two countries stepped up bilateral engagements with external affairs minister **S Jaishankar** meeting his counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow and President Vladimir Putin's aide Nikolai Patrushev having a meeting with NSA Ajit Doval in Delhi.

At the meeting with Lavrov, Jaishankar said India-Russia ties have long been a factor of stability in international relations and their growth and evolution is not only in "our mutual interest but also in that of the world". Jaishankar is in Russia to participate in the SCO heads of govt meeting. He discussed with Lavrov the agenda for the upcoming summit that will likely see Putin travelling to India on Dec 4-5. They also spoke about key regional and global issues. Jaishankar said a number of agreements and projects are under discussion ahead of the summit. "We look forward to their finalisation in the coming days. These will certainly add more substance to our Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership."

Besides Doval, Patrushev held meetings with National Maritime Security coordinator Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta and minister of ports, shipping and waterways Sarbananda Sonowal. "The parties discussed development of bilateral cooperation in civilian maritime sector," said a readout.

Bengal governor leads search for arms & ammunition at Raj Bhavan

TNN & AGENCIES

Kolkata: Bengal governor C V Ananda Bose Monday led a team of security personnel and sniffer dogs in a "search operation" at Raj Bhavan following allegations by Trinamool MP Kalyan Banerjee "arms and ammunition were stacked within its premises". Banerjee dismissed the exercise as "child's play".

"Governor Bose led the team of personnel, comprising Kolkata police officers and central forces, the bomb squad and dog squad, to find out whether there are arms and ammunition stacked inside," a Raj Bhavan official said. Bose, who was on a trip to north Bengal, cut that short to spearhead the operation, which started from the ground floor of Raj Bhavan around 2.15pm, an official said. "There was also deployment of personnel at Raj Bhavan Police Outpost. Officials of disaster management and civil defence departments also participated in the search," the official added.

Bose cut short his north Bengal trip to spearhead the operation

Raj Bhavan was evacuated and members of civil society and journalists were allowed to accompany Bose during the exercise, which was "live-streamed".

Banerjee said: "...Why would anyone call police unless they have cleaned up the place? This is all child's play. He would not have to resort to such antics if he only followed the Constitution in letter and spirit... Actually, he has fallen in his appraisal sheet (among other governors) before the Union home minister. He is desperate to make amends. Let him complain against me in LS..."

Earlier, after "nothing surfaced following the search", Bose threatened strong action against Banerjee as per legal provisions for his "baseless allegations".

10 yrs' RI for all 14 accused of hooch tragedy that killed 24

Bhopal: Nearly five years after the Jan 2021 hooch tragedy that claimed 24 lives in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh, a local court on Monday convicted all 14 accused and sentenced them to rigorous imprisonment for 10 years, besides slapping over Rs 2 lakh in fines.

The court of Indrajeet Raghuvanshi, second additional sessions judge, Jaura (Morena), wrote in the order that the convicts, having conspired to manufacture and sell toxic liquor that killed 24 villagers, were "not deserving of any sympathy," and that only the harshest punishment was justified given the seriousness of the offence and the evidence on record. TNN

(Original Advertisement in Gujarati Translated into English)

"Annual Purchase of books for Public Libraries in State" under matching scheme of Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Gujarat Government for Financial Year: 2025-26

Under the public library assistance (in the form of book) scheme it planned to purchase of books for the year 2025-26 for the readers of Public Libraries. Hence all Individual Authors/Publishers/Book Distributors are invited to send one specimen copy (non returnable in future) of Gujarati, Hindi, English and Other Language books for selection. Book published on or after Dt. 01/01/2023 are must be submitted with the consent of compliance with terms up to Date 20/12/2025 (Excluding Holidays) during office hours at the Second Floor, Office of Director, Libraries, Government of Gujarat, Near Town Hall, State Central Library Building, Sector-17, Gandhinagar-382010.

There will be a New Webportal for Book Purchase where all Authors/ Publishers/Book Distributors will be required to register compulsory. The Authors/ Publishers/Book Distributors who have already registered earlier, there is no need to register again. For submission of copies of books under this scheme details of Registration, Data Entry of Books, rate of Discount, Information about to submit the books, Terms and Condition and other details will be displayed on our official website: www.dolib.gujarat.gov.in.

Web Portal for Registration: http://dolgbp.gujarat.gov.in/

Phone No. 079-23258335/36

Website: www.dolib.gujarat.gov.in

E-Mail: dolgbp@gujarat.gov.in

Director Libraries
Gujarat State, Gandhinagar

INF/1844/2025-26

DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
PM-POSHAN BRANCH, VIDYA SAMIKSHA KENDRA
BOULEVARD ROAD, ROOM NO 307, CIVIL LINES, DELHI-110054

TENDER ID 2-25_DE_281261_1

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Request for proposal are invited from interested NGOs/Voluntary Organizations/ any Body Corporate/ Proprietorship/ Partnership/ Cooperative Society etc. working in Delhi or willing to work in Delhi for award of work of supply of (freshly cooked) Mid-Day Meal from their de-centralized semi automated kitchens to the children of Primary and Upper Primary classes of Govt. and Govt. Aided Schools & AIE Centres under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan of Directorate of Education GNCT of Delhi.

Sr. No.	Name of work/ contract	Earnest Money Rupees (in lac)
1	Preparation and supply of (freshly cooked) Mid Day Meal from their de-centralized semi automated kitchens to the children of Primary and Upper Primary classes of Govt. and Govt. Aided Schools, AIE Centres under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan of Directorate of Education GNCT of Delhi as per the following norms fixed by the Government of India under Mid Day Meal Scheme. (Category of Beneficiary / Specifications Calories (Gms) / Protein (Gms): Class I to V — 450 — 12; Class VI to VIII — 700 — 20)	Rs.10,00,000/- To be paid through FDR/DD with a validity of 180 days and drawn in favour of Director (Education), GNCTD. The above EMD should be submitted at room No. 307, 3rd Floor, Vihdya Samiksha Kendra, Boulevard Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-11054.
2	Milestone dates of Electronic Selection Process	
i	Downloading of Request for proposal document	Start date - 18.11.2025 at 10:00 AM Last date – 08.12.2025 at 05:00 PM
ii	Pre bid meeting	25.11.2025 at 03:00 PM Venue - Vidhya Samiskha Kendra, Boulevard Road, Civil Lines, Delhi
iii	Date of clarification & amendment in RFP, if any, in pursuance to pre-bid meeting	01.12.2025 at 04:00 PM
iv	Last date of submission of online Request for Proposal	Upto 08.12.2025 at 05:00 PM
v	Opening of Bid	09.12.2025 at 11:00 AM

1. The Bid document can be downloaded from the websitehttp://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in. However, for general information, guidance and reference, the Bid Document can also be viewed and downloaded from Directorate of Education website http://edudel.nic.in.
2. All others terms and conditions, instructions to bidder regarding Request for proposal process etc. may kindly be seen from the detailed Request for proposal available/ do available/ downloadable on the above noted websites.

Deputy Director of Education
(PM-POSHAN)

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0338/25-26

O-1416

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
No.4898 / Date : 25.10.2025
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works

1.	Name of the Work	:	**Road Works under MMSY-Impvt. to Existing RD road**
2.	Total No. of works	:	**21 Nos. of Road works for the year 2025-26**
3.	Estimated Cost of the work	:	**Varies from Rs. 77.92 lakh to Rs. 1522.92 lakh**
4.	Class of Contractor		
	a) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 lakh up to Rs. 3.00 Crores.		**B Class** (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities.
	b) Estimated cost more than Rs. 1.00 Crore up to Rs. 20.00 Crores.		**A Class** (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	c) Estimated cost more than Rs. 6.00 Crore up to Rs. 50.00 Crores.		**Special Class** (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	d) Estimated cost more than Rs. 20.00 Crores		**Super Class** (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
5.	Period of completion	:	**As mentioned in Column-7 of Annexure**
6.	Offered rates by bidder	:	The offered rate by the contractor shall be excluding GST.
7.	Other details		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
		From	To	Technical bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chief Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar	Tender-Online-C.C.31 of 2025	18.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	04.12.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	05.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated lateron

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar

JJ-65

Directorate of Ports & Inland Water Transport
Fortune Tower, Ground Floor, Zone - A, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar
Phone: 0674-2300885, Email: portsniwt.od@nic.in

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Identification No. DPIWT-23/2025-26

01.	Name of the Work	:	**Improvement of Existing Boat Landing Center and Public Rain Shelter at Sipakuda in Puri District.**
02.	No. of Covers	:	**Double Cover**
03.	Approximate Value of Work	:	**Rs. 32.99 Crore**
04.	Bid Cost	:	**Rs.10,000.00 (Online)**
05.	Period of completion	:	**18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months**
06.	Date & Time of availability of Bid Document in the portal	:	**19.11.2025 to 04.12.2025 up to 05.00 P.M.**
07.	Date & Time of Bid Clarification	:	**19.11.2025 to 25.11.2025 upto 03.00 P.M.**
08.	Date & Time of Pre-Bid meeting	:	**26.11.2025 at 11.30 A.M.**
09.	Last Date/Time for receipt of Bids in the portal	:	**04.12.2025 up to 05.00 P.M.**
10.	Class of Contractor	:	**'Special' & 'Super' Class Contractor**
11.	Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)	:	**05.12.2025 at 11.30 A.M.**
12.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Tender (O.I.T)	:	**Director, Ports & Inland Water Transport, Fortune Tower, Ground Floor, Zone-A, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pin-751023 Phone-0674-2390355, Fax-2396885. e-Mail: portsniwt.od@nic.in**

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **"https://tendersodisha.gov.in"** The Addendum / Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

Sd/- **Director**
Ports & IWT, Odisha

Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium & Sports Complex Society (RGICS)
Department of Sports (Govt. of Uttarakhand)
Maharana Pratap Sports College, Thano Road, Raipur, Dehradun-248008

Date-17/11/2025 RFP References- RGICS 05/2025

Notice Inviting Tender

The Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium & Sports Complex Society (RGICS), Department of Sports, Uttarakhand invites bids from reputed and experienced firm/agencies/companies for:

Sr. No	RFP	Bid Security	Reference No.
1.	Request for Proposal for Engagement of an Agency for Annual Maintenance of Ice Rink and Swimming Pool (Himadri), RGICS, Dehradun.	INR 3,00,000	RGICS 05/2025

Schedule of bidding process:

Sr.No.	Activity Description	Date
1.	Issue of RFP	17.11.2025
2.	Starting date for submission of Bids	24.11.2025
3.	Last Date for Submission of Bids	02.12.2025
4.	The date for Opening of Technical Bids	02.12.2025
5.	Date of Financial bid opening	03.12.2025 (tentative)

All the information/Corrigendum/addendum related to the project shall be published on the website https://uktenders.gov.in and the authority shall have the right to reject the bid partially or fully without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Chief Executive Officer,
Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium & Sports Complex Society (RGICS),
Department of Sports,
(Government of Uttarakhand)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD (B&R) KHARGONE DIVISION KHARGONE
website : www.mp.gov.in/pwdmg E-mail: eepwdkhargone@mp.nic.in
Phone No. 07282-231213

Tender Inviting Notice

N.I.T.No: 22/SAC/ 2025-26/Khargone **Date: 14.11.2025**

Online percentage rate bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and Firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria

S. No.	Tender Portal No.	Name of Work	P.A.C. (in Rs. lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Form (in Rs.)	Class of contractor	Time allowed for Construction
1	2	3		5	6	7	8
1	2025_PWDRB_462947_1	Construction of Durgapur Fata to Vaitel Road i/c Utility Pole Shifting Work Total Length 3.80 Km. Under Sub Division Mandleshwar.	483.79	483790	15000	Centralized registered in PWD	10 Months including rainy season
		Total	483.79				

1. All details relating to the Bid Document(s) can be viewed and downloaded free of cost on the website **https://mptenders.gov.in** Bid Document can be purchased after making online payment of portal fees.
2. At the time of submission of the documents of Bid the eligible bidder shall be required-to: 1.Pay the cost of Bid Document; 2. Deposit the Earnest Money; 3. Submit a check list 4. Submit an affidavit. Details can be seen in the Bid Data Sheet.
3. The Bid Document can be purchased only from **Dated 17.11.2025 10:00 AM to Dated: 27.11.2025 06:00 PM.**
4. Detailed Notice Inviting Tender and other particulars of tender can be seen on the above website. All documents are accepted online. FDR is Physical not acceptable.
5. Any Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only but not paper publication.

Sd/-
(Er. Akash Dubey)
Executive Engineer
PWD (B&R) Dn. Khargone

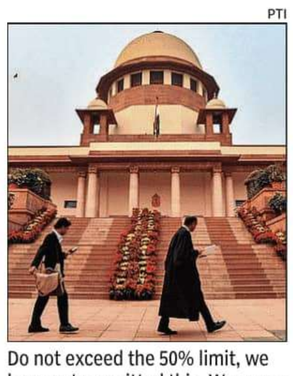
"पॉक्सो है सुरक्षा का हथियार, बच्चों पर ना करें अत्याचार" G-21596/25

SC: Won't allow reservation to exceed 50% in Maha civic polls

'Will Order Stop To Nomination Process If Cap Is Breached'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

PTI



Do not exceed the 50% limit, we have not permitted this. We never allowed the reserved seats to exceed 50% of the total seats, the SC bench repeatedly said

New Delhi: A day before scrutiny of nomination papers for the Maharashtra civic body elections is scheduled to begin, Supreme Court on Monday said it would not permit total reservations for SC, ST and OBCs to exceed the 50% limit, and warned that it would stop the nomination process in those constituencies where quota breached the ceiling.

Appearing for certain petitioners, senior advocate Vikas Singh said there are civic bodies in which the 27% reservation for OBCs took the total quota beyond the 50% ceiling in violation of SC's May 6 order, which had directed Election Commission to follow the OBC reservation specifications as existed before the Banthia Commission's report of July 2022.

SC said since recommendations of the Banthia Commission have not yet been fully crystallised by the state govt, the elections to local bodies — 409 urban local bodies and over 28,000 rural local bodies — will be held as per the OBC reservation applicable to constituencies prior to July 2010.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta and senior advocate Shekhar Naphade told a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi that the process of scrutiny of nomination papers commences from Tuesday and that it was not appropriate for the petitioners to move court at this late stage. "Do not exceed the 50% limit, we have not permitted this. We never allowed the reserved seats to exceed 50% of the total seats," the bench repeatedly told Mehta, who requested for adjournment. The bench posted the matter for further hearing on Wednesday.

While allowing the short adjournment, the bench said it would stall the process for all civic bodies where that the total reserved seats was found to exceed 50%.

SC to T'gana speaker: Take call on BRS MLAs' fate in a week or face consequences

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Taking a dim view of Telangana speaker G Prasad Kumar continuing to sit over the issue of disqualification of 10 BRS MLAs who had switched to Congress, SC on Monday told him to decide the issue by next week or face serious consequences.

When senior advocate A M Singhvi sought more time for the speaker, a bench of Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria sternly remarked, "It is for him to decide where he wants to spend his New Year. It is up to him to decide the petitions by next week or face contempt." The court issued notice on a contempt of court petition to the speaker for violating the three-month deadline it had set on July 31 for him to decide disqualification petitions which he has kept pending for nearly two years.

CJI Gavai said the speaker, while deciding disqualification petitions against MLAs, acts as a tribunal and does not enjoy the constitutional immunity or privileges associated with his role as the head of the assembly, and that he was liable for contempt of court proceedings.

Though SC termed the speaker's approach as grossly contumacious, it adjourned further hearing on the contempt petition by two weeks and exempted the speaker from personal presence before the court, which is normally warranted in a contempt proceeding, till further orders.

On July 31, a bench led by CJI Gavai had directed the Telangana speaker to decide within three months the disqualification petitions filed against 10 BRS MLAs who had defected to Congress after it formed govt in the state following elections in Nov 2023.

The bench was critical of the speaker issuing notice on the disqualification petitions seven months after they were filed and said such a delay breached the trust Parliament reposed in speakers to decide these matters fearlessly and expeditiously. In the 2023 elections to the 119-member assembly, Congress had won 64 seats, BRS 39, BJP 8, AIMM 7 and CPI 1. Ten BRS MLAs defected to Congress subsequently.

Precedence ignored, SC tells HCs judicial discipline must

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Expressing its anguish over high courts for not following its rulings and ignoring judicial precedence in passing orders, Supreme Court on Monday said that it was against judicial discipline which cannot be ignored.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan said that high courts cannot ignore Supreme Court's precedence in deciding the case and raised question on how could the Madhya Pradesh high court condone delay of four years and nine months on behalf of state govt in filing appeal in a case.

The apex court in its various rulings had held repeatedly that state or any of its instrumentalities cannot be given preferential treatment for condonation of delay under Section 5 of the Limitation Act.

Contrary to SC's judgments, the HC had in its order on Sept 1 said "It is well settled in law that in the matter of condonation of delay liberal approach has to be adopted by court, therefore, on due consideration of the submissions advanced by learned counsel for the petitioner and the reasons assigned in the application, which is supported by the affidavit interim application is allowed and the delay of 1612 days is hereby condoned".

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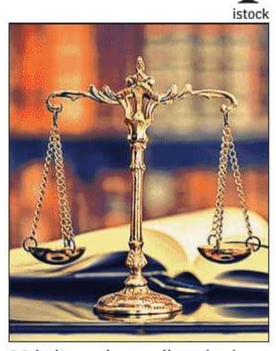

SC in its various rulings had held repeatedly that state or any of its instrumentalities cannot be given preferential treatment for condonation of delay under Section 5 of the Limitation Act

As soon as the matter was called, the bench did not mince words in criticising the order and said that it was against judicial discipline. "How can a delay of over 1,600 days be condoned? We are sorry to say but we have to someday put our feet down to send a message... There is something called judicial discipline and high courts cannot ignore our judgments," it said.

The court was hearing an appeal against HC order for condoning delay. The petition, filed through advocate Dushyant Parashar, said that the HC passed the order on the basis of the state's affidavit which had no explanation for delay and was only an eye wash, which was accepted by the HC. The case pertains to a land ownership dispute and petitioner alleged that HC was wrong by condoning the state machinery's callous and lackadaisical attitude.

"The impugned interim order condones the delay of 4 years and 9 months of the state in filing first appeal which has caused serious prejudice to the petitioner, in whose favour the declaration of ownership has been rendered by district judge, Ratlam. The petitioner being the owner is in continuous possession of the land and is doing his agricultural activity and taking care of his family, the petitioner would be put to serious prejudices and irreparable injury and loss if the operation of the impugned order is not stayed. Further the basis of inordinate delay, the affidavit of state having no explanation for such inordinate delay, only an eye wash, which has been accepted by HC and condoned the delay of 4 years and 9 months. The impugned order of HC is in derogation of strict legal principles laid down in the catena of the judgments," the petition said.

SC imposes cost on man seeking contempt case against judge

New Delhi: "This is not how you can treat our judges," Supreme Court on Monday told a petitioner who sought initiation of contempt proceedings against a district court judge for allegedly "not obeying the order of the apex court".

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna & R Mahadevan took strong exception to the petitioner for seeking proceedings against an additional district and sessions judge of Himachal Pradesh and refused to let off the petitioner when the lawyer pleaded to allow him to withdraw the contempt petition.

"You can not get away like this. Filing of the contempt petition is itself an abuse of the process of law," the bench said and directed the petitioner to deposit Rs 5,000 to SC Legal Services Authority.

The court said the petitioner can move HC challenging the order of the lower court and raise grievances there but not by filing contempt proceedings against the judge. It also said that lawyers should not encourage the litigants to file such a petition. TNN

Man invokes Pocso case against wife, SC issues notice on her SLP

Swati.Deshpande
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The Supreme Court has issued a notice in a special leave petition filed by a woman against whom her estranged husband invoked the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, accusing her of sexually assaulting their five-year-old son. She moved SC after the Bombay high court disposed of her quashing petition in July, observing that she could first file a discharge application before the trial court.

She moved SC after the Bombay HC disposed of her quashing petition in July, observing that she could first file a discharge application before the trial court

The high court referred to a series of apex court rulings on how to use its constitutional FIR quashing powers sparingly when a petitioner has another provision in law which is not onerous and provides equally efficacious relief. The high court said filing for discharge is "not an onerous remedy".

After hearing her advocate, Abhishek Kulkarni, on the merits of the case and prosecutor M M Deshmukh, who opposed the quashing plea, the high court also said the mother could "not be permitted to raise a specious plea," calling on it to adjudicate her innocence in a petition directly invoking its extraordinary jurisdiction and rendering "otiose" the criminal procedural provisions.

The husband filed an FIR against her and her friend last April, a man she claimed to have met on social media, for allegedly "sexually assaulting" the child. The offence attracts a minimum of 3 years of rigorous imprisonment and a maximum of 5 years. A trial court granted her bail immediately the day she was arrested and produced, but one of the conditions imposed was to not meet or contact the child until the trial concludes.

Her lawyer Kulkarni informed the top court that while the chargesheet is filed, the trial is yet to even start. Her petition alleges that she and the child were residing with her parents since last May following matrimonial disputes over her husband's alleged infidelity. He allegedly took the child with him for a day but later lodged the "false and concocted" FIR to make a case for the child's custody, her petitions contended.

Her special leave petition, filed through advocate S K Deshpande, said Article 39(F) of the Indian Constitution directs the state to protect children from exploitation and ensure conditions of freedom and dignity. The high court failed to see that "misusing a child in false criminal proceedings amounts to mental cruelty and exploitation of the child... violates India's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which mandates protection of children from all forms of abuse, including misuse in legal disputes". The Supreme Court sought replies and posted the matter for mid-Dec.

Raj law against conversion: SC seeks govt stand

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to Centre and Rajasthan govt on plea challenging validity of the state's anti-conversion law and sought response on a petition alleging that the law is only a tool for harassment of the minority communities and to create a chilling effect, reports **Amit Anand Choudhary**.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath & Sandeep Mehta agreed to hear the petition filed by 'The Jaipur Catholic Welfare Society' and tagged it with similar other petitions filed against anti-conversion law of other states. Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan and lawyer Amit Pai said that various provisions of Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Act were violative of Constitution.

"'It is submitted that the structure of the Rajasthan Act is only to create fear in the minds of people and dissuade people from conversions...," the petition said.

SC: Tetra packs of whisky dangerous, why allow them?

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: With a fight over trademark between two major whisky producers revealing that a major part of their sales is through small tetra packs in south-west India, a startled Supreme Court on Monday wondered why states are permitting such packaging of liquor.

"This is very dangerous. It looks like a juice tetra pack. Imagine it falling into the hands of children? The parents and teachers won't even suspect that tetra packs contain intoxicants," said a concerned bench of CJI-designate Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi.

The case involved Allied Blenders, which manufactures 'Officer's Choice', and John Distillers, which markets its whisky under the brand name 'Original Choice'. Appearing for John Distillers, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said that both companies have more than Rs 30,000 crore of sales and that in Karnataka alone tetra packs account for 65% of the business.

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It looks like a juice tetra pack. Imagine it falling into the hands of children, SC said

In an interesting turn to their business rivalry, both companies had approached the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) seeking rectification of trademarks used by each other. By a common order, the IPAB had dismissed both petitions saying there was nothing so similar in the trademarks as to confuse consumers.

However, on Nov 7, a division bench of Madras HC ordered rectification of 'Original Choice' trademark for its similarities with 'Officer's choice'. This was challenged before SC, where bottles of various shapes and tetra packs were shown to the bench.

With advocates Harish Salve, A M Singhvi and N K Kaul representing Allied Blenders pitted against Mukul Rohatgi and Shyam Divan appearing for John Distillers, the bench asked, "Despite the ferocious fighting in different forums, is there a chance of compromise?"

With both parties agreeing to attempt a compromise through mediation, the bench requested retired SC judge L Nageswara Rao to act as a mediator to reach an amicable settlement over the high-spirited dispute over the label on whisky products of both companies.

Azam, son given 7 years' jail for fraud to get dual PAN cards

Bareilly: An MP/MLA court in UP's Rampur on Monday sentenced Samajwadi Party neta Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Azam to seven years imprisonment, along with a fine of Rs 50,000 each, in a 2019 case related to obtaining by submitting forged documents two PAN cards for Abdullah with different birth dates, reports **Krishna Chaudhary**.

Soon after the verdict, they were taken into custody and sent to jail. While entering Rampur jail, Azam Khan said, "They thought I was guilty, so I was sentenced to jail. It's good."

An FIR in the matter was lodged in 2019 at Civil Lines police station on a complaint by politician Akash Saxena, accusing Abdullah of intentionally procuring a forged PAN card to escape age-related disqualification during the 2017 assembly polls. Saxena contested Rampur assembly bypoll in 2022 on a BJP ticket and won.

According to the FIR, Abdullah possessed two PAN cards — one mentioning Jan 1, 1993, as his date of birth that matched his school & bank records, and the other having Dec 30, 1990, which was submitted to fulfil the age criteria during the assembly election nomination process in 2017.

कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन
(श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
Employees' Provident Fund Organisation
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, नोएडा / Regional Office, Noida
भविष्य निधि भवन ए–2 सी सेक्टर–24 नोएडा उ.प्र.–201301
Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan,A-2C, Sector-24, Noida, UP-201301
दूरभाष / Phone : 0120-2412058, ई–मेल / E-mail : ro.noida@epfindia.gov.in

सार्वजनिक सूचना

राष्ट्रव्यापी डिजिटल जीवन प्रमाणपत्र अभियान 4.0
"Promotion of Face Authentication Technology"

सभी ईपीएफओ–पेंशनभोगियों को यह सूचित किया जाता है कि अबाधित पेंशन के भुगतान की सुविधा को ध्यान में रखते हुए जीवन प्रमाण पत्र को अपडेट करने के लिए विशेष अभियान के तहत जीवन प्रमाण मेला का आयोजन क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, नोएडा में दिनांक 15–11–2025 से 15–12–2025 (कार्यालय कार्य दिवस में) तक किया जाएगा।

ईपीएफओ के ऐसे पेंशनधारक जिनकी मृत्यु हो गयी है उनके सम्बन्धी एवं रिश्तेदारों से आग्रह किया जाता है की उनका मृत्यु प्रमाण पत्र ईपीएफओ कार्यालय में शीघ्र जमा कराये। एवम पेंशनर के परिवार से पेंशन दावेदार अपना बैंक खाता अपडेट / अघतन करायें ।

पेंशनभोगियों के लिए सुविधापूर्ण जीवन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए, पेंशन एवं पेंशनभोगी कल्याण विभाग के तत्वावधान में राष्ट्रव्यापी डिजिटल जीवन प्रमाणपत्र अभियान 4.0 के अंतर्गत, चेहरा प्रमाणीकरण ऐप (Face Authentication App) अपने मोबाइल में डाउनलोड करके घर / ऑफिस इत्यादि से आसानी से जीवन प्रमाण पत्र को अपडेट / अघतन कर सकते है अधिक जानकारी के लिए आप ईपीएफओ की वेबसाइट के होमपेज पर जा सकते हैं। इसके अलावा पेंशनभोगी अपने जीवन प्रमाण पत्र को डिजिटल तरीके से पेंशन जारी करने वाले बैंक, कॉमन सर्विस सेंटर, पोस्ट ऑफिस, उमंग ऐप और नजदीकी ईपीएफओ ऑफिस में अपडेट / अघतन भी कराया जा सकता हैं।

डिजिटल जीवन प्रमाण पत्र (जीवन प्रमाण) पेंशनभोगियों के लिए एक बायोमेट्रिक सक्षम डिजिटल सेवा है। कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन (EPFO) के वे संगठन जिनकी पेंशन वितरण एजेंसी डीएलसी के लिए सक्रिय है, इस सुविधा का लाभ उठा सकते हैं। पेंशनभोगी अपने नजदीकी डाकघर या आईपीपीबी टोल–फ्री नंबर 155299 या पोस्ट इन्फो मोबाइल ऐप के जरिए घर बैठे सेवा बुक कर सकते हैं। कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन (EPFO) के पेंशनभोगियों को जीवन प्रमाण पत्र करने हेतु सेवा निःशुल्क है, उन्हें जीवन प्रमाण पत्र भौतिक रूप से जमा करने के लिए वितरण एजेंसी के कार्यालय जाने की आवश्यकता नहीं है, बल्कि वे डीएलसी बनाने के लिए आधार सक्षम बायोमेट्रिक प्रमाणीकरण प्रणाली का उपयोग कर सकते हैं।

Digital Life certificate
WhatsApp group

कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन (EPFO) के पेंशनर इस QR कोड को स्कैन कर सीधे ही अपनी जीवन प्रमाण पत्र से सम्बंधित Whatsapp **7599345188** ग्रुप के माध्यम से दर्ज करा सकते है तथा सम्बंधित जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

(मुकेश सारस्वत)
क्षेत्रीय भविष्य निधि आयुक्त ।। (पेंशन)

DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT,
(GOVT.OF NCT OF DELHI)
3RD FLOOR, IT PARK, DMRC BUILDING,
SHASTRI PARK, DELHI-110053
Visit us at: http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in

No. DPCC/(3)(2)(46)/Admn-19/4379 Dated: 17/11/2025

Rolling Advertisement for Recruitment of various posts on deputation (including short term contract) in Delhi Pollution Control Committee

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), Govt. of NCT of Delhi, invites applications for the following posts that are to be filled on deputation (including short term contract). Applications from eligible officers/Officials, working in the Central/State Government /Union Territory/Recognized Research Institute/ Autonomous bodies/Statutory Bodies/PSUs:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Level of Post	Eligibility	Number of Posts (tentative)
1	Senior Environmental Engineer	Level-12	Eligibility mentioned in the circular available at DPCC website.	07
2	Environmental Engineer	Level-11		17
3	Assistant Environmental Engineer	Level-10		11
4	Senior Scientist L-1 (Scientist-C)	Level-11		01
5	Scientist-B	Level-10		02
6	Scientific Assistant	Level-6		03
7	Senior Lab Assistant	Level-4		05
8	Assistant Law Officer	Level-7		01
9	Legal Assistant	Level-6		04
10	Programmer	Level-10		01
			Total	**52**

Detailed information may be seen at the DPCC website www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in under the head "Office Order & Circulars". Applications (through proper channel) in the prescribed format available on the website may be submitted to the **Administrative Officer, DPCC, 3rd Floor, IT Park, DMRC Building, Shastri Park, Delhi-110053**.

This is a Rolling Advertisement and all applications received upto 30th November, 2025 shall be considered in the 1st phase, applications received upto 15th December, 2025 shall be considered in the 2nd phase and applications received upto 31st December, 2025 shall be considered in the 3rd phase.

The relevant information related to the recruitment shall be intimated on DPCC website from time to time.

Sd/-
Member Secretary
DPCC

Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education
(An Autonomous body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun – 248 006, (Uttarakhand), INDIA

Walk-in Interview for the post of JPF

Walk-in interview for the posts of ***Junior Project Fellow (06 Nos.)*** on temporary basis at the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun is scheduled on 26 Nov. 2025. Details of post and educational qualifications is available on **https://icfre.gov.in/recruitment**.

Head CoE-SLM
ICFRE, Dehradun

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Government of Gujarat undertaking)
Nigam Bhavan Sector 16, Block C First Floor,
Nr. GH 4½ Bus Stand, Gandhinagar – 382 016.
Website: https://www.gujarattourism.com

TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited from reputed and experienced consultants for **"Preparation of Tourism Development Plan for Ukai Dam region, Tapi, Gujarat"**.

The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender documents, which shall be available for download from the websites: **https://tender.nprocure.com/** and **https://www.gujarattourism.com** from **18/11/2025 onwards.**

The last date for submission of the **Technical Bid and Financial Bid (online only) is 16/12/2025 up to 6:00 pm. and Technical Bid (physical only) is 18/12/2025 up to 4:00 pm.**

Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
SAFDARJUNGHOSPITAL& V.M.M.C
NEW DELHI-110029

E Comp. No.: 28620 File No.: ACDM-14024/3/2024-ACAD-VMMC

RECRUITMENT FOR THE POST OF JUNIOR RESIDENT (Non-PG)
MBBS AND BDS ON REGULAR BASIS

The Director, Safdarjung Hospital & VMMC, New Delhi invites applications for the posts of **Junior Resident (Non-PG) MBBS and BDS** in the various departments of this institution on regular basis. The prescribed format for applying along with the detail of posts, eligibility criteria, schedule of Written Examination and the other terms & conditions will be available on the hospital website **www.vmmc-sjh.mohfw.gov.in** w.e.f. 10.11.2025. Last date of filling online application is 25.11.2025 till 05:00 PM. Candidates are requested to visit official website of this institution regularly for any further notifications.

Assistant Admin. Officer
Academic Section

CBC 17145/11/0006/2526

सत्यमेव जयते
कला, संस्कृति एवं भाषा विभाग
दिल्ली सरकार

सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of Culture
Government of India

दिल्ली सरकार

द्वारा

दिल्ली सिक्ख गुरुद्वारा प्रबंधक कमेटी
के सहयोग से आयोजित

श्री गुरु तेग बहादर साहिब जी

और उनके साथ शहीद हुए अनिन गुरुसिक्खों भाई मती दास जी, भाई सती दास जी एवं भाई दयाला जी की
पवित्र शहादत के 350वें वर्ष की स्मृति में

विशेष गुरमत समागम

23 से 25 नवम्बर 2025
लाल किला मैदान दिल्ली

समागम के मुख्य बिंदु

- विशाल कीर्तन दरबार
- श्री गुरु तेग बहादर जी की जीवनी पर लाइट एंड साउंड शो
- श्री गुरु तेग बहादर जी संग्रहालय
- संगतों के लिए टेंट सिटी एवं लंगर सेवा

नरेंद्र मोदी
माननीय प्रधानमंत्री

गुरू घर के सेवक

रेखा गुप्ता
माननीया मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली

कपिल मिश्रा
माननीय कैबिनेट मंत्री, दिल्ली सरकार

मनजिंदर सिंह सिरसा
माननीय कैबिनेट मंत्री, दिल्ली सरकार

हरमीत सिंह कालका
अध्यक्ष, DSGMC

जगदीप सिंह काहलों
महासचिव, DSGMC

रेखा गुप्ता
माननीया मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली

रविवार, 23 नवम्बर 2025

कार्यक्रम (शाम)

5:45 से 6:25 बजे	पाठ	श्री रहरासि साहिब
6:25 से 7:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई कुलविंदर सिंह जी खरड़
7:30 से 8:00 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई परमिंदर सिंह जी ऑस्ट्रेलिया
8:00 से 8:45 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई चमनजीत सिंह जी दिल्ली
8:45 से 9:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई शुभदीप सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनिए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
9:30 से 10:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई कारज सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनिए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
10:30 से 11:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई अनंतवीर सिंह जी यू.एस.ए

उपरांत अरदास एवं समापन

सोमवार, 24 नवम्बर 2025

कार्यक्रम (शाम)

5:45 से 6:25 बजे	पाठ	श्री रहरासि साहिब
6:25 से 7:00 बजे	कीर्तन	350 विद्यार्थी समस्त गुरु हरिकृष्ण पब्लिक स्कूल
7:00 से 7:40 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई कारज सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनिए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
7:40 से 8:20 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई तरनवीर सिंह जी रब्बी
8:20 से 9:00 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई ओंकार सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनिए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
9:00 से 9:40 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई सरबजीत सिंह जी पटना साहिब
9:40 से 10:10 बजे		पंथक विचारां
10:10 से 10:50 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई हरजिंदर सिंह जी श्रीनगर
10:50 से 11:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई अनंतवीर सिंह जी यू.एस.ए.

उपरांत अरदास एवं समापन

मंगलवार, 25 नवम्बर 2025

कार्यक्रम (शाम)

4:15 से 4:45 बजे	कथा	भाई सुखजीत सिंह जी कन्हैया
4:45 से 5:45 बजे	संपूर्णता	सहज पाठ साहिब
5:45 से 6:25 बजे	पाठ	श्री रहरासि साहिब
6:25 से 7:00 बजे	कीर्तन	350 बीबीयां समस्त सत्री सतिसंग सभा
7:00 से 7:40 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई गुरमीत सिंह जी शांत हजूरी कीर्तनिए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
7:40 से 8:20 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई शुभदीप सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनिए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
8:20 से 9:00 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई मनिंदर सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनिए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
9:00 से 9:30 बजे		पंथक विचारां
9:30 से 10:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई हरजिंदर सिंह जी श्रीनगर
10:30 से 11:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई सरबजीत सिंह जी पटना साहिब

उपरांत अरदास एवं समापन

विशेष आभार - संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

DIP/Shabdarth/Display/085/25-26

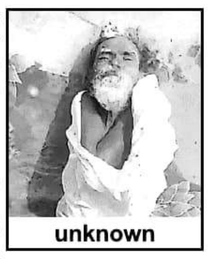
APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown **S/o** Unknown, **R/o** Unknown, **Age:** about 45-50 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **ID:** Tattoo on the Right Hand in English (illegible), **Wearing:** Khaki Coloured Pant and White-Gray Coloured Linedar Shirt was found dead on 12.11.2025 at 12:16 PM from Spare Area, Opposite Worldmark-04, Aerocity Exit Road towards Mahipalpur, IGI Airport, New Delhi. In this regard a **DD No.39A dated 12.11.2025** has been lodged at P.S. IGI Airport, New Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO
P.S. IGI Airport, New Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-25652325
DP/15448/IGIA/2025 Mob.: 8750871365

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



unknown

The general public is hereby informed that a Male whose name, residence and family is **unknown**, whose age is about 55-60 years was found dead lying at Footpath in front of Red Fort Lower Subhash Marg, Delhi. The dead body of the deceased person has been shifted to AAA Hospital Mortuary, Subzi Mandi, Delhi. In this regard, an information has been lodged vide **DD No. 45A Dated 13.11.2025 U/s 194 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 at PS Kotwali, Delhi.**
Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light, so far. The description of the UIDB is as under:

Sex: Male, **Age:** 55-60 Years, **Height:** 5'2" ft, **Complexion:** Dark, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** White Shirt and Black Lower. If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/ Kotwali, Delhi.

SHO
PS, Kotwali, Delhi
DP/15474/N/2025 **Ph. No. 8750870121, 9212890595**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

unknown

The general public is hereby informed that a Male whose name, residence and family is **unknown,** whose age is about 35-40 years was found dead at Shop No. 4024 main Road Naya Bazar Lahori Gate, Delhi. The dead body of the deceased person has been preserved at Subzi Mandi Mortuary for 72 hours. In this regard, an information has been lodged vide **DD No. 47A Dated 15.11.2025 at PS Lahori Gate, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light, so far. The description of the UIDB is as under:

Sex: Male, **Age:** 35-40 Years, **Height:** 5'7" ft, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Normal, **Face:** Long, **Hair:** Black & White, **Wearing:** Black White Color Shirt and Black n White Color Pyjama. If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Lahori Gate, Delhi.

SHO
PS, Lahori Gate, Delhi
DP/15483/N/2025 **Ph. No. 8750870122, 9810620018**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

NISHA KUMARI

General Public is hereby informed that one Girl, **Namely: Nisha Kumari, D/o**: Vijay Manjhi, **R/o:** Jhuggi No. A 216, Shaheed Sukhdev Nagar, WPIA, Ashok Vihar, Delhi, **and,** Village Nerua Bazar, P.S. Maharaj Ganj, District Sivan, Bihar, **Sex:** Female, **Age:** 14 Years, **Height:** 5Feet 4Inches, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Medium, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Green Coloured Kurti & Blue Jeans Pant and Brown Coloured Slippers in feet, and has been missing from her residence and the Jurisdiction of P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi, since 16.10.2025. In this regard a missing report, **FIR No. 505/2025, U/S 137 (2), Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Dated: 19.10.2025,** has been registered at **P.S.: Ashok Vihar, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing Girl, but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this the missing Girl, please inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
PS: Ashok Vihar, Delhi
DP/15326/NW/2025 **Ph.: 8750870221**

THE JUSTICE (RETD.) R.M.LODHA COMMITTEE (IN THE MATTER OF PACL Ltd.)

PUBLIC NOTICE

E-AUCTION OF PROPERTIES OF PACL LTD. IN HARYANA- GURUGRAM, MEWAT UTTAR PRADESH - VARANASI, MATHURA.

1. The Justice (Retd.) R.M.Lodha Committee (In the matter of PACL LTD.), constituted by and under the order dated February 02,2016, passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Civil Appeal No. 13301/2015 titled Subrata Bhattacharya Vs. SEBI and Ors. with connected matters, for disposing of the land purchased by PACL LTD. so that the sale proceeds can be paid to its investors, has in compliance with order dated August 08,2024, passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the above mentioned matter, decided to initiate e-auction of properties located in Haryana-Gurugram, Mewat, Uttar Pradesh - Varanasi, Mathura and consequently issued Request for Proposals (RFP) which can be accessed at: https://www.sebi.gov.in/notice-for-eoi-proposals.html, https://www.bankeauctions.com.
2. The property documents can be accessed at: https://sebipaclproperties.com, https://www.bankeauctions.com.
3. Details for participation in e-auction are available in RFP. Key dates of RFP are as follows: -
   - **Date of Publication of RFP - November 18, 2025**
   - **Start Date of Submission of Bids - November 18, 2025**
   - **Last date for submission of Queries - December 04, 2025**
   - **Bid Due Date and Time - December 26, 2025 (16:00 Hrs)**
   - **Start Date of e-Auction - January 12, 2026 (11:00 Hrs)**

APPLICABLE CONDITIONS:

- All properties will be sold on an "as is, where is, whatever is" basis and the purchaser will be responsible for all claims, liabilities and/ or encumbrances relating thereto.
- The details of the Properties as stated in this Notice and the RFP under this Tender Document are as per the details made available to the Seller and neither the Seller nor the Agency shall, in any way, be responsible for any variation in the extent of the Properties due to any reason.
- The Committee will in no manner be responsible for any discrepancy in the properties/their title deeds and bidders are requested to submit their bids only after conducting their own independent due diligence exercise with respect to the title to the Properties.

CBC 15204/11/0183/2526

The Lawrence School

Lovedale, Ooty - 643 003, The Nilgiris (TN)
Phone : 0423 2453338, 2442552
E-Mail : pc@thelawrenceschool.org
Website : www.thelawrenceschool.org

TENDER FOR LED VIDEO WALL AND ERP SOFTWARE

The Lawrence School, Lovedale invites Tender documents from reputed contractors for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of LED Video Wall and providing School ERP software.

For bids & complete bidding documents, please visit www.thelawrenceschool.org/tenders

The school reserves rights to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

HEADMASTER

Government of Rajasthan
Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services 2, Jalpath, Gandhi Nagar, Jaipur-302015

NIB.No. F.3(2)(159)NNM/Sim Card/ICDS/2024-25/103223 **Dated:- 07.11.2025**

e- Tender Notice
No. 10/2025-26

e-bid is invited from Eligible Bidders for procurement of "SIM Card alongwith Internet Services (Data Plus Voice Package) for a period of 02 years" upto 1.00 PM on dated 27.11.2025 Details may be seen in the bidding documents on our website www.wed rajasthan.gov.in and http:/sppp.raj-nic.in bid form may be seen and downloaded from website eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, This bid shall be processed through e-procurement portal of Govt.of Rajasthan. Estimated value of the procurement is Rs.2480.80 Lacs.

NIB No. ICD2526A0798
UBN No. ICD2526GLOB01096

Sd/-
(Vasudev Malawat)
Director ICDS and State project Director.
Poshan Abhiyaan

DIPR/C/16591/2025

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

NAVRATNA COMPANY
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website: www.ircon.org, CIN - L45203DL1976GOI008171

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

EOI No.: IRCON/BD/KAL-NUM/EOI/2025

Expression of Interest (EOI) invited for association as JV Partner from Experienced Agencies for "**Widening and Improvement of existing Carriageway to 4 Lanes of Kaliabor Numaligarh Section (from CH. 315+315 to Km. 400+990) of NH-37 (new NH-715) including Implementation of Wildlife-friendly Measures proposed on Kaziranga National Park (KNP) Stretch in the State of Assam under NH(O) on EPC Mode.**"

EOI No.: IRCON/BD/Tumkur - Raydurga/EOI/2025

Expression of Interest (EOI) invited for association as sub-contractor through pre-bid tie up from Experienced Agencies for **"Construction of New Broad-Gauge Line between Chainage 30/500 & Chainage 84/000 including Railway Electrification, Civil Works, Signal & Telecommunication Works and Electrical General Services between Koratagere (Excl.) and Madakasira (Excl.) stations in Tumakuru - Rayadurga new BG Line Project."**

For further details and updates, please visit e-Procurement portal **www.etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app**. Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the website only.

Chief General Manager/Business Development

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम
(श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)
क.रा.बी.नि. E.S.I.C.

सत्यमेव जयते Government of India

इंदिरा गांधी क० रा० बीमा अस्पताल झिलमिल दिल्ली-95
INDIRA GANDHI ESI HOSPITAL,
JHIL MIL DELHI-95
F. No. 011-22144804, 22151329
Fax: 011-22167518
Email: ms-jhilmildelhi@esic.nic.in
(An ISO 9001:2008 (CERTIFIED)

F.No. 113/C/14/16/210/2021-PS Dated 28.10.2025

CHARGESHEET

The undersigned issued a Memorandum dated 25.09.2025 to hold an Inquiry against, Smt. Rexy Verghese, Emp ID 171294, Nursing Officer under CCS(CCA) Rules, 1965 & ESIC (Staff & Conditions of Service) Regulation 2023 as the official has violated CCS(Leave) Rules by remaining unauthorizedly absent from duties since 11.11.2020. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehaviour in respect of which the Inquiry is proposed to be held, A statement of imputations of misconduct or misbehaviour in support of Article of Charge, A list of documents by which the Articles of Charge are proposed to be sustained are set out in Annexure-I, Annexure-II, Annexure-III respectively which is available at website https://jhilmilhospital.esic.gov.in/circulars/esichospital_circular_list.

The official is directed to submit within 10 days from the date of publish of this gist of charge sheet, a written statement in her defence and also to state whether she desires to be heard in person. If she does not submit her written statement of defence on or before the date specified above or does not appear in person before the Disciplinary Authority, the Disciplinary Authority will hold the inquiry against her ex-parte.

DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY

CBC 23115/12/0001/2526

Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs
Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property for India
New Delhi Head Office, 1st Floor, East Wing,
Shivaji Stadium
Annexe Building, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001.

NOTICE FOR DISPOSAL OF ENEMY PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION

The office of the Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI) is a Statutory Authority under the provisions of the Enemy Property Act, 1968. The Head Office is at Delhi with Branch Offices at Mumbai, Kolkata and Lucknow.

(12/2025)E-AUCTION

CEPI is undertaking e-Auction of 46 Enemy Properties of Uttar Pradesh located in the districts of Barabanki, Pilibhit, Etah, Muzaffarnagar, Sultanpur, Banda, Bijnor, Budaun, Lucknow, Sitapur.

Details of properties and other conditions are available on:-
https://enemyproperty.mha.gov.in/epweb/viewDocument?uid=602

For MSTC Catalogue (with T & C) please visit:-
https://enemyproperty.mha.gov.in/epweb/viewDocument?uid=607

The details can also be downloaded/ viewed from above websites / by scanning the QR Code. The E-Auction notice/ inspection period is from **01.11.2025 to 30.11.2025**. The E-Auction will take place on **02.12.2025** from 11.00 Hrs to 16.00 Hrs. All interested persons are advised to track Amendments/Changes in the Bid Document, if any, which will be uploaded on the website.

Date and Time of E-Auction	**02.12.2025 11:00 Hrs. to 16:00 Hrs.**

CBC 19148/11/0005/2526

NATIONAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

[A Government of India Enterprise]
20-22, Zamrudpur Community Centre, Kailash Colony Extension, New Delhi 110048
Website: www.nrdcindia.com Email: write2@nrdc.in

Inviting Expression of Interest for "Development of an AI-Based Technology Exchange Platform"

Keeping in view the Govt. of India's initiative to adopt ease of doing business, NRDC proposes to do Proof of Concept of an AI based Technology Exchange Platform to facilitate smooth transfer of technologies. NRDC invites Technical and Financial Bids from Startups having experience in developing AI tools and Applications. Interested Startups may kindly submit bids in sealed envelope to the Senior Manager - Purchase at the given address by December 9, 2025, 5 pm. Please visit NRDC website **www.nrdcindia.com** to download the EoI document.

CBC 36206/12/0010/2526

Uttarakhand Infrastructure & Investment Development Board

Dept of Planning, Govt of Uttarakhand,
4th Floor, Kapoor Tower,
Opposite Gandhi Park, Dehradun - 248001,
E-mail- uiidbuk@gmail.com

Notice: Invitation for Request for Proposal

Ref No:- 843/59/S.B.R/UIIDB/2025-26 **Dated: 17 November, 2025**

Uttarakhand Infrastructure & Investment Development Board (UIIDB), Dehradun, Uttarakhand, invites proposals from reputed Firms/Institutions **for Selection of Technical Consultant for Structural Engineering of Suspension Bridge & 300 meter Bungee Jumping at Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.**

Kindly refer to **www.uktenders.gov.in**. for detailed terms and conditions of the RFP's.

Proposal Due Date: 09.12.2025 till 15:00 Hrs IST.

Managing Director
UIIDB
Dehradun

GHAZIABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Navyug Market, Opp. Old Bus Stand, Ghaziabad 201001, Uttar Pradesh
E-mail: gzb.nagar.nigam@gmail.com Website : www.ghaziabadnagarnigam.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

TENDER NOTICE NO. : 99/Nirman/2025-26 **Dated : 17.11.2025**

Request for Proposal for

ENFORCEMENT, DOOR TO DOOR COLLECTION & TRANSPORTATION OF LEGACY DUMP IN GNN AREA WITHIN PERIOD OF ONE YEAR AND PROCESSING OF CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION (C&D) WASTE FROM GNN AREA

Sr. No.	Description	Date	Time
1.	Event Description Sale of RFP document	18.11.2025	11:00 AM
2.	Last Date of submission of Bid	08.12.2025	03:00 PM
3.	Date of opening of the Bids	08.12.2025	04:00 PM
4.	Tender Fees	11,800/-	
5.	EMD	2.5 Lacs	

Note: Tender fees & EMD payment on e-tender website i.e. **https://etender.up.nic.in**

Chief Engineer
Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a Male namely **Dinesh, S/o: Ram Ashish Kamet, R/o: H.No. 1315, Gali No. 06, L-1st Sangam Vihar, Delhi has been missing since 05.11.2025 at about 10:30 PM from his home.** In this regard **DD No. 61A, Dated: 07.11.2025, has been registered at P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi.** The description of missing Male is as under:

Name: Dinesh, Age: 45 Years, Height: 6', Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Black Colour Lower and Blue Colour Jacket.

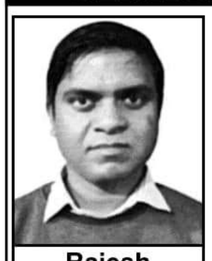
If anyone have any information about this missing Male please inform P.S. **Neb Sarai, Delhi.**

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station Neb Sarai, Delhi
Ph: 9818092952, 7065569305

DP/15329/SD/2025

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Rajesh

General public is hereby informed that a male namely **Rajesh, S/o Dhrigraj Bind Chauhan, R/o A-382, Keshav Nagar, Ibrahim Pur, Delhi has been missing since 10.11.2025 at about 07:00 AM from his home.** In this regard **DD No. 57 A, Dated 11.11.2025** has been lodged at Police Station Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. The description of missing male is as under:

Name: Rajesh, Age: 29 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Healthy, Wearing: Mehroom Colour Shirt & Mehroom Colour Pant and Slipper in Feet.

If anyone has any information about this missing male please inform P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station Swaroop Nagar, Delhi
Ph: 7988147056

DP/15291/ON/2025

Superintending Engineer 4th Circle, HPPWD Shimla (Name of Authority Inviting Bids)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

The Superintending Engineer Shimla Circle HPPWD Shimla on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of road under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD and HP Jal Shakti Vibhag (Contractors of HP Jal Shakti Vibhag are eligible to participate for the works having amount put to tender above Rs. 100 Lacs). Non registered contractors may submit the bids, however successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authority in HPPWD.

District :- Shimla **RIDF :-** RIDF XXXI **Name of the work :-** C/o link road from Domehar to Navi road km. 0/00 to 5/250 (SH:- C/o Formation and Cutting, Protection work, Cross drainage, Soling, Drain, Crash barrier, Parapets and Dumping Structure in km. 0/00 to 5/250) **Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh) (without GST) :- Construction (without GST) :-** 508.47 **Maintenance (without GST) :-** -Nil- **Total Cost (Rs. Lakh) (without GST) :-** 508.47 **Starting date for downloading bid :-** 17.11.2025 **Form Cost :-** 10000/- **Deadline for submission of bid :-** 27.11.2025 **Period of Completion :-** 365 days **Bid Security (Rs. Lakh) :-** 10.17

District :- Shimla **RIDF :-** RIDF XXXI **Name of the work :-** C/o link road from Garkhan to Majhiwar, Sheel, Sharoh road km. 0/00 to 4/400 (SH:- C/o Earth work, Protection Work, Cross Drainage Work, V-Shape Drain, Road furniture and Dumping Structure in km. 0/00 to 4/400). **Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh) (without GST) :- Construction (without GST) :-** 455.22 **Maintenance (without GST) :-** 29.17 **Total Cost (Rs. Lakh) (without GST) :-** 484.39 **Starting date for downloading bid :-** 17.11.2025 **Form Cost :-** 7000/- **Deadline for submission of bid :-** 27.11.2025 **Period of Completion :-** 365 days **Bid Security (Rs. Lakh) :-** 9.69

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the departmental website www.hptender.gov.in

The Superintending Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Superintending Engineer,
4th Circle, H.P.P.W.D.,
Shimla-3
E-mail : hp-shi3@nic.in

Advt.No. : 4411/17/11/2025 **HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK**

कार्यालय जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर

क्रमांक :- जो.वि.प्रा./जोधपुर/जोन पूर्व/राजकाज 18819074 दिनांक :- 13/11/2025

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या :- पूर्व/14/2025-26

जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर की ओर से प्राधिकरण एवं राजकीय विभाग में नियमानुसार उपयुक्त श्रेणी मे पंजीकृत ठेकेदार से सिविल कार्य हेतु मुहरबंद एवं ई निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। इन कार्यो की अनुमानित लागत, निविदा बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की दिनांक, निविदा, शर्ते आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट **www.jodhpurjda.org, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखी जा सकती है।

NIB CODE – JOD2526A0193, UBN No. – JOD2526WSOB00434, 00435, 00436

राज.संवाद/सी/25/13967 **अधिशाषी अभियंता (पूर्व)**

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

NAVRATNA COMPANY
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website : www.ircon.org, CIN - L45203DL1976GOI008171

e-Procurement Notice

e-Tender No.: IRCON/B-1300035/NFR-VB/Composite works/2025 **Dated : 17.11.2025**

e-Tender for and on behalf of IRCON International Limited is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of **'Composite Work (Civil, Electrical, Mechanical and Signal & Telecom) involving construction (A) At-NJP-Upgradation/Development of maintenance infrastructure for energy efficient Vande Bharat Express at Coaching Complex/NJP. (B) New Jalpaiguri - At-NJP Next Generation Freight Maintenance Facilities (C) At SGUJ-Infrastructure construction of GE Loco shed for homing of 250 Nos. GE locos (WDG4G/WDG6G) in Katihar Division over Northeast Frontier Railway.'**

Estimated Cost of the Work	Rs. 2,02,05,97,549/- incl GST
Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission	01.12.2025 till 15:00 Hrs.

For further details, visit website **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app.** Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the website only.

Executive Director/Projects, C-4, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017

Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority

Plot No: 01, Knowledge Park IV, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar,U.P.-201308
Website: www.gnida.up.gov.in, Email authority@gnida.in

पत्रांकः स्वा.वि./2025/2635 दिनांकः 14.11.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by the undersigned for the receiving quotation / Rates of byproduct generated from C&D Waste for civil works in Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority on dated **19.11.2025 upto 3.00 P.M.** in the office of Senior Manager (Health), Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority, Tower-1, 9th Floor, Greater Noida, Distt.-G.B. Nagar (U.P.), Pin Code-201310. Details of Items/works should be clearly mentioned in the quotation notice which is available on the **www.gnida.up.gov.in**. All right to reject any or all the quotation without assigning any reason thereof. Quotation will be opened on dated **03.12.2025 at 3.30 P.M.** Quotation received after the specified time will not be allowed.

Senior Manager (Health)

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INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)
Head Office: A-13, Sector – 1, Noida - 201 301;
Phone: 0120-2527667, **Fax:** 0120-2522969 **hc.iwai@nic.in**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

An e-Bids are invited from interested bidders for **"CAMC of Bathy 500HD Single Beam Echo Sounder (SBES)".**

Details and Tender document can be downloaded from **18.11.2025 to 27.11.2025** from our web site at **www.iwai.nic.in** and CPPP Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.** Last date for submission of online bids is **27.11.2025 up to 1500 hrs.** And date of opening of tender is on **28.11.2025 at 1530 hrs.** Submission of online bids will be through **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.** The Tender Documents and other relevant details are available at IWAI website **www.iwai.nic.in** and e-procurement site **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**

Date: 17.11.2025 **HYDROGRAPHIC CHIEF IWAI, NOIDA**

Jindal Power Limited

(CIN: U04010CT1995PLC008985)
Registered Office: Tamnar-496 107, District Raigarh, Chhattisgarh

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

JPL/NIT/2025-26/04 **Date: 18.11.2025**

Jindal Power Limited (JPL) is a leading power producing company in India across the energy spectrum. JPL has been contributing significantly to the growing needs of power in the country with a strong presence in Thermal, Renewable Power generation and Coal mining.

Jindal Power Limited (JPL) invites **Expression of Interest (EOI)** from interested agencies for following work at Jindal Power Ltd., Tamnar, Raigarh, C.G:-

1. **Undertaking end to end Operation of Bio Mass Pellet Plant (Capacity – 160 TPD).**
2. **Undertaking work (AMC / Overhauling / Others) related to Boiler, TG, Electrical, C&I, AHP, CHP, CCPC, BOP, WTP, Mining, Ash and Coal Transportation, Solar Projects and Operations etc.**
3. **Undertaking work related to Civil & Interiors, Building Projects, Ash Dyke, Catering and Housekeeping Services, Administration, IT, Fire & Safety, Horticulture etc.**

Interested agencies may submit their EOI along with their detailed Credentials and Annual Turnover to **nit@jindalpower.com** by 23.11.2025.

Contact Person : Mr. Priyabrata Patnaik, Mobile : 83490 98665,
Mr. Vishal Jadhao, Mobile : 78801 82850

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Aadesh Gupta

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Aadesh Gupta S/o Arvind Kumar Gupta R/o E-3/394, Nand Nagri, Delhi Age:** 16 years, **Height:** 5'0", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Medium **Face:** Oval, wearing Blue colour Sweater & Grey colour Lower, has been missing from his house since 15.11.2025 at 07:00 A.M. In this regard a **FIR No. 700/2025 U/s 137(2) Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, dated 16.11.2025 has been registered at P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22585985, 8750870733

DP/15493/NE/2025

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 CrPC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Tasleem S/o** Kallu Ali, **R/o** Village Bidha Nangla, PS-Bisauli, Distt-Badaun (U.P.), has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 416/2025, U/S 18/25/29 NDPS Act, PS Mahendra Park, North-West Distt., Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Tasleem** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Tasleem** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that **Tasleem** the said accused of **FIR No. 416/2025, U/S 18/25/29 NDPS Act, PS Mahendra Park, North-West Distt., Delhi,** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.12.2025.**

By Order
Sh. Dhirendra Rana
Additional Sessions Judge/
Special Judge (NDPS) Act, Room No.-207,
Rohini Courts, New Delhi

DP/15449/NW/2025
(Court Matter)

Ahmedabad Municipal Transport Service Transport House

Outside Jamalpur gate, Jamalpur
Ahmedabad-380 022.
Telephone: (079) 25391881/25391882
Email: amtsamc@gmail.com

International competitive bid are invited for the Development Of Multi Model Transport Hub-Terminals With All Related Allied World Class Infrastructure Facilities and commercial/other commercial component Through Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) on F.P no. 132, T.P Scheme no.121, Naroda, Hanspura, Kathavadaa, at Ahmedabad.

Start date for Downloading Bid Documents	Date: 18/11/2025 from 15:00 hrs on wards
Last Date for Online Submission	Date: 31/12/2025 up to 18:00 hrs on https://tender.nprocure.com
Details and Tender Available on	https://tender.nprocure.com

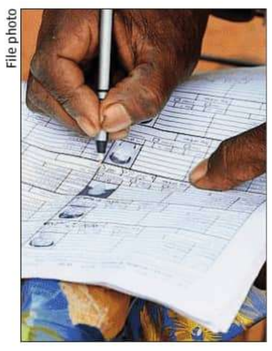
For any complain/ Suggestion for AMTS please contact our toll free No. 18002330881 & Whatsapp No. 7069015735 & 9879008711

NRC case pending, EC skips SIR in Assam, orders 'special revision'

No Documents Needed; Final Rollout Feb 10

Bharti.Jain@timesofindia.com

File photo



The legal criteria to determine citizenship, including cutoff date, is different for Assam vis-a-vis the rest of India, which is why the poll body has not ordered an SIR in the state, a senior EC functionary explained. Also, the final NRC data is yet to be published and holding an SIR would have led to a conflict between SIR and NRC data

New Delhi: Election Commission on Monday ordered a 'special revision' (SR) of the electoral roll in Assam, due for assembly polls next year, with Jan 1, 2026, as the qualifying date. The SR will involve mandatory house-to-house (H2H) verification but differs from the special intensive revision (SIR) in that it will not seek documentation from any elector to prove their eligibility to vote.

The state poll machinery would ensure that every eligible person who fulfils the criteria under Article 326 of the Constitution — being a citizen of India, not less than 18 years, and an ordinary resident not disqualified under any law or of unsound mind — is included in the roll.

As regards 'doubtful' voters, or 'D' voters — suspected illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, classified as such by EC in 1997, who remain on the rolls but are not allowed to vote — EC said their particulars will be carried forward to the draft electoral roll without any change. "Any modification, including removal or deletion, shall be made only upon receipt of any order from the competent foreigner tribunal or an appropriate court of law," ordered the poll panel.

The pre-revision activities for the SR exercise in Assam shall begin on Tuesday, followed by actual revision from Nov 22 to Dec 20. An integrated draft electoral roll will be published on Dec 27, followed by the filing of claims and objections from Dec 27 to Jan 22, 2026. These will be disposed of by Feb 2, and the final roll will be published on Feb 10.

Explaining the rationale behind not ordering a SIR in Assam, a senior EC functionary said the legal criteria to determine citizenship, including the cutoff date, is different for Assam vis-a-vis the rest of the country. Also, while a national register of citizens (NRC) was prepared for Assam in 2019, the final data is yet to be published, and Supreme Court is seized of the matter. Conducting a SIR at this juncture would have led to a conflict between SIR and NRC data. In any case, over 10,000 citizenship challenges are still pending before foreigners tribunals, the functionary said.

On use of the nomenclature "special revision" and not the usual "annual or special summary revision", the EC officer said that Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, terms any roll revision by EC with a different procedure as "special" revision. EC also avoided the term "summary" revision as it signifies a non-serious exercise not necessarily covering H2H verification. "This exercise will require the mandatory three H2H visits by BLOs to get the forms signed by each elector," said the officer.

During the field verification, BLOs will be given a pre-filled register listing the existing electors. They will collect information on voters who are dead, registered at multiple places or permanently shifted, as well as roll corrections in Statement 1, on unenrolled eligible citizens in Statement 2, and on prospective electors in Statement 3.

Mamata rejects Centre's 'arbitrary' appointment of Gorkha interlocutor

Roshan Gupta | TNN

Darjeeling: Bengal CM **Mamata Banerjee** Monday wrote to PM Narendra Modi "rejecting" the Centre's "shocking, unilateral, arbitrary and wholly unconstitutional" decision to appoint former deputy national security adviser Pankaj Kumar Singh as an interlocutor for Gorkha issues in the Darjeeling Hills.

Banerjee said the decision was taken without any consultation or concurrence with the Bengal govt. In her letter, Banerjee stated that on Oct 18, she had urged the PM to "reconsider and revoke" the appointment. She noted that although the PM's Office acknowledged her request and advised the Union home minister to examine the matter, the Centre operationalised the interlocutor's office through a memo on Nov 10.

Banerjee argued that the Darjeeling region was an integral part of Bengal and governed by the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration Act, 2011, a law passed by the assembly and given presidential assent. Citing Section 2(h) of the Act, she said the term "govt" unequivocally referred to govt of Bengal, leaving no jurisdiction for the Centre to appoint an interlocutor for the region.

The CM contended the Centre's order amounted to an "ultra vires and mala fide exercise of power" and violated the constitutional balance between the Union and states. Matters relating to state governance, she pointed out, fell squarely under List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

Accusing the Centre of interfering in the state's internal affairs, Banerjee warned that such actions undermined cooperative federalism and eroded the spirit of unity and mutual respect. She urged the PM to intervene once again and revoke what she termed was an "unconstitutional and arbitrary order".

'No maintenance for woman if earning equals husband's'

Bhopal/Jabalpur: A family court at Jabalpur has ruled that if a woman earned money at par with her husband, she was not entitled to maintenance from him.

First additional principal district judge Sandeep Sharma dismissed an application by a woman for a monthly maintenance allowance, saying she earned as much as her former husband.

During arguments, the man said his wife started working after their divorce, but in the form presented in court, she put 'not applicable' in the income column. He said he earned Rs 7,000 a month and bore all expenses of their son who lived with him. The woman admitted she took home a salary of Rs 10,000. TNN

MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
Ministry of MSME Govt. Of India
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, GOVT. OF INDIA
KIADB Industrial Estate Devarahalli, Bengaluru website-www.msmetcbl.org
2 DAYS GOVERNMENT TRAINING ON
GEM REGISTRATION E-MARKETING, Contracts & E-Tender
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Course Duration 2 Days (ONLINE) Date: 22 & 23 November 2025 Time : 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM
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Urban unemployment rate in Oct at 3-month high of 7%, shows PLFS

New Delhi: The overall unemployment rate for those in the 15 years and above age group held steady at 5.2% in Oct, but urban joblessness rate climbed to a three-month high of 7% during the month, the monthly periodic labour force survey (PLFS) showed on Monday. The survey also showed that there was a marginal decline in the rural unemployment rate from 4.6% in Sept to 4.4% in Oct.

The joblessness rate among females in the 15 years and above age group dipped marginally to 5.4% in Oct from 5.5% in Sept. The drop in unemployment rate among rural females, from 4.3% in Sept to 4% in Oct, led to the dip in female unemployment rate. Male joblessness has remained stable at 5.1% in Oct compared to the previous month. A marginal dip in the rural unemployment rate among males, from 4.7% in Sept to 4.6% in Oct, was offset by a slight rise in urban male unemployment from 6% to 6.1% during the same period.

The data showed the overall Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) reached a 6-month high of 55.4% in Oct. The LFPR has risen for four months in a row to 55.4% in Oct from 54.2% in June. The LFPR in rural areas has also increased from 56.1% in June to 57.8% in Oct, the monthly data showed.

LFPR among females aged 15 years and above reached 34.2% in Oct marking the highest since May, led by an increase in LFPR among females in rural areas, according to the data. The data showed female worker growth drove the increase in overall workforce.The overall worker population ratio (WPR) in Oct was 52.5%, and has been on a rising trend since June. The rise in the female workforce in rural areas led to the increase. TNN

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BLO's 'suicide' triggers SIR protest by Raj govt teachers

Suparna.Roy1@timesofindia.com

Jaipur: A day after a 36-year-old teacher and booth-level officer (BLO) in Jaipur allegedly died by suicide, govt school teachers across Rajasthan protested on Monday against overwhelming SIR duties, which they said were detracting them from their primary teaching responsibilities.

The teacher, Mukesh Jangid, allegedly took his life due to the stress of unrealistic targets and threats of suspension linked to special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Jangid's family claimed they found a suicide note in his pocket, in which he cited gruelling SIR workload and intense pressure by senior officials, including suspension threats, as the reasons for ending his life. His younger brother Gajanand alleged that police prevented family members from taking a photograph of the note.

In the SIR exercise underway in Rajasthan, teachers — who account for 85% of the state's 52,000 BLOs — have been assigned the responsibility of distributing, collecting and processing voter enumeration forms. Teachers say these duties have left them unable to complete their syllabus ahead of half-yearly exams, scheduled to begin on Nov 20, especially since textbooks were distributed three months after the start of the academic session on July 1.

In a memorandum to the chief electoral officer, Rajasthan Shikshak Sangh Ekikrit, an association of teachers urged officials to treat BLOs with respect. "SIR work will be completed on time. But, please direct district collectors and sub-divisional magistrates to ensure their staff treat SIR personnel with respect and are supportive. Stop their authoritarian behaviour," it said. Teachers also highlighted "unrealistic targets" requiring BLOs to submit 100 completed forms daily.

On Monday, All Rajasthan State Employees Joint Federation (Unified) submitted a memorandum to CM Bhajan Lal Sharma demanding Jangid's family be granted compensation of Rs 50 lakh and his next of kin be given a govt job.

MARCHING IN SOLIDARITY

PTI

Kerala govt employees stage a protest outside the chief electoral officer's office following the alleged stress-induced suicide of a booth-level officer involved in the SIR of electoral rolls, in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday

BLO killed himself after threats by CPM activists: Kerala Cong neta

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kannur: Kerala's Kannur district Congress committee president Martin George on Monday alleged that booth-level officer (BLO) Aneesh George died by suicide on Sunday due to threats by CPM netas, and not work pressure.

During an interaction with reporters, Martin George released an audio clip of phone calls between the deceased and a booth-level agent (BLA) of Congress party, hinting at political pressure faced by him over the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Martin alleged CPM threatened Aneesh to avoid UDF's representatives while visiting houses as part of SIR. "CPM pressured Aneesh to include CPM branch secretary and DYFI functionaries for field visit instead of UDF's representatives," said the DCC president.

According to him, all parties had suggested their representatives as BLAs to ensure transparency in SIR activities. "But, Aneesh was forced to exclude UDF BLAs during house visits. CPM's BLA Rafeeq had threatened Aneesh demanding he exclude Congress's BLA Vysakh during house visits. His suicide was not due to workload. He ended his life due to political pressure and threats from CPM netas and workers. A case should be registered against Rafeeq," Martin said.

Denying the charges, CPM said the attempts to divert the issue for political gains should be realised. It also said it would move SC against the SIR exercise

Meanwhile, CPM denied the charges, saying that the attempts to divert the issue for political gains should be realised.

CPM Kannur district secretary K K Ragesh alleged EC's instruction to publish first phase of draft voters list on Dec 8, despite the busy work related to local body elections, had increased the workload of BLOs tenfold. The state govt will approach Supreme Court against this, he said. CPM will also legally challenge these anti-people SIR activities, he added. Ragesh also said that Aneesh's family had clarified that he had no personal issues and he ended life only due to the pressure related to election work.

Body handed over to kin

The body of Aneesh was handed over to his relatives after postmortem Monday. Aneesh's family reiterated he had been under severe work pressure related to the SIR. "He did not even get time to eat and sleep properly. He was under severe strain to complete the work assigned to him as part," Aneesh's brother-in-law Saiju told reporters. Saiju added that Aneesh was frequently contacted by senior officers for updates. "Seeing the severe workload, Aneesh's father told him not to worry even if he loses his job," he added.

Manja slits man's throat: A Maharashtra man got 13 stitches as a kite string cut his throat.

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Spooked by SIR, man returns home after 28 years to claim voter status

Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

Kolkata: Bengal's special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls just produced an act of desperation with a strangely redemptive ending.

Jagabandhu Mondal, missing for 28 years and long given up for dead by his family, returned to his native Bagdah village of North 24 Parganas Monday to reclaim his identity as a voter. His wife Supriya, left to fend for herself with two toddlers, recognised her husband's "thickset face" the moment he landed at their door. His father Bijoy confirmed it was indeed his runaway son.

"The voice, too, was unmistakably his," said Supriya, caught in a whirlwind of emotions surrounding the man who vanished on a winter morning in Feb 1997.

After efforts to trace him proved futile, the family had consulted an astrologer, who "confirmed" their worst fears.

Jagabandhu Mondal has returned to his village in Bengal for the SIR exercise, but his name has been apparently deleted from the rolls

Supriya even performed her husband's shraddha and reconciled to life as a single mother bringing up two kids.

Jagabandhu's name was apparently deleted from the electoral rolls during one of the subsequent revisions. Now 55, after nearly three decades without any contact with Bagdah, he wants in. "I decided to return after I lost my job in Chhattisgarh. My name is still on the voters' list in Bankura," Jagabandhu said.

The Bankura connection triggered suspicion that he remarried. Next to his name on that list is one "Sulekha Mondal". Her husband's name? Jagabandhu Mondal. The man in the muddle denied marrying a second time. "I travelled to Gujarat and then Mumbai before returning to Bankura for a while. I finally settled in Chhattisgarh," he said.

Local booth committee member Samir Guha said Jagabandhu was back in Bagdah as he would need his original voter ID and land documents to remain on the voters' list during SIR. "His name is not there on the post-SIR 2002 rolls, but his father's name is."

The designated BLO, meanwhile, said, "With his name deleted from the rolls and no official proof of his whereabouts for 28 years, verifying his claims and restoring his status may prove a challenge."

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(Manvinder Singh)
Director (Gurdwara Elections)
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सचिव

BJP inducts neta it tied to lynching of sadhus, does U-turn after outrage

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Less than 24 hours after it welcomed into its fold former NCP (SP) functionary Kashinath Choudhary, whom it had accused of being involved in the 2020 mob lynching of two sadhus in Palghar, BJP did a U-turn and suspended his entry.

Deputy CM Eknath Shinde had earlier cited Choudhary's alleged involvement in the lynching to explain why he decided to break away from undivided Shiv Sena and go along with BJP. That split in Sena led to the MVA govt's fall.

NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar flagged Choudhary's induction by BJP's Palghar (rural) district president Bharat Rajput Sunday and questioned the party's hypocrisy. "Kashinath Choudhary... has been put through the washing machine and taken into BJP. Does this mean that BJP was behind the Palghar murder? BJP's Hindutva is fake," he said in a post.

As the news spread, BJP went on the defensive. CM Devendra Fadnavis said, "The decision was taken at the local level. Accusations are now being made after he came into our party. The case has been fully investigated. Local party workers said they looked at all information and only thereafter was the decision taken (to induct Choudhary)."

By late afternoon, state BJP president Ravindra Chavan issued a letter to Rajput stating Choudhary's entry had resulted in discussions on his alleged association with the Palghar sadhu lynching resurfacing in the media and on social media platforms. "Considering the sensitivity of the matter, Choudhary's entry is being temporarily stayed," stated the letter.

Reacting to BJP's flip-flop, Rohit said, "Now that the decision is being criticised everywhere, the state BJP president has suspended the induction."

NDA MLAs meet today to pick leader

Nitish Poised For Record 10th Term As Bihar CM

Madan.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

IANS

Nitish Kumar, deputy CM Samrat Choudhary & state minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary meet governor Arif Mohammad Khan at Raj Bhawan on Monday

Patna: NDA legislators will meet Tuesday in Patna to elect their legislature party chief, a formality widely expected to clear Nitish Kumar's path to take oath as Bihar CM for a record 10th time on Nov 20. The current assembly will stand dissolved on Nov 19, setting thestage for a new govt.

NDA secured 202 seats in the 243-member state assembly in this month's elections: BJP 89, JDU 85, LJP (Ram Vilas) 19, HAM(S) 5, and RLM 4. Before sitting with allies, BJP lawmakers will gather separately to elect their leader, party state president Dilip Jaiswal said Monday.

Earlier in the day, the outgoing NDA govt held its final cabinet meeting, authorising Nitish Kumar to recommend dissolution of the assembly. He then met governor Arif Mohammed Khan to convey the resolution — a procedural requirement before the new cabinet's formation.

Negotiations among allies over ministerial portfolios intensified through the day. The swearing-in ceremony, planned at Patna's historic Gandhi Maidan — currently closed to the public for preparations — is expected to be a blend of experienced hands and new faces from BJP and JDU.

JDU expects a larger share in the new cabinet after its electoral showing. Party functionaries Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Ashok Choudhary, and Shrawan Kumar are seen as frontrunners for ministerial roles. JDU state president Umesh Singh Kushwaha is among those likely to be inducted.

BJP is likely to retain key figures such as deputy CM Samrat Choudhary and minister Prem Kumar, who secured a historic ninth consecutive win in Gaya, while weighing a few new names.

Other allies — Union minister Chirag Paswan's LJP (RV), Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM(S), and Upendra Kushwaha's RLM — are set to secure representation as well.

A large turnout of politicians is expected for the swearing-in, including Modi and Union minister Amit Shah.

Tejashwi offers to step aside, Lalu says he should lead RJD

IANS

Sheezan.Nezami
@timesofindia.com

Tejashwi Yadav after being elected as the RJD legislative party leader

Patna: A visibly emotional Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, who has been accused by sister Rohini Acharya of misbehaviour and attacked by elder brother Tej Pratap, Monday told RJD MLAs that they were free to elect someone else as their legislative party leader, before his father and party patriarch Lalu Prasad quickly intervened to say he should continue to lead the party in the Bihar assembly, according to a legislator present at the meeting.

Soon thereafter, the newly elected RJD MLAs chose Tejashwi as their legislative party leader. Apart from Lalu Prasad, his wife and former CM Rabri Devi and their eldest daughter and party MP Misa Bharti also attended the meeting.

Tejashwi's aide Sanjay Yadav, who is at the centre of the turmoil in Lalu Prasad's family, was also present.

"Tejashwi ji was emotional. He gave us the option to elect anyone else as the RJD legislative party leader," the legislator said, adding Tejashwi also launched an indirect attack on Rohini, saying he had been asked to deny "someone" a ticket, but he refused to do so. "What to do? Do I see the party? Or the family?" he asked.

The meeting also discussed the party's poor performance, with particular emphasis on seats lost by narrow margins.

Senior RJD leader Jagadanand Singh, speaking after the meeting, blamed EVMs for RJD's disastrous performance. "Till the time machine (EVM) is there, democracy will be mocked. These machines were misused," alleged Singh.

Another RJD MLA, Bhai Birendra, echoed the charge while speaking to the media. "We have to fight against electronic voting machines (EVMs). We demand that the elections should be held using ballot papers," he said.

RJD managed to win only 25 of the 143 seats it contested in the polls for the 243-member Bihar assembly.

Will sort out family feud, Lalu tells party MLAs

Patna: RJD chief Lalu Prasad Monday asked functionaries to focus on strengthening the party while the "family matter will be solved inside the house", a reference to the ongoing family feud playing out in public, reports **Sheezan Nezami**. Lalu said whatever happened was inside the family and he would sort it out.

After RJD's rout in the assembly poll, Lalu's second daughter, Rohini Acharya, has blamed brother Tejashwi Yadav's aides Sanjay Yadav and Rameez Nemat Khan.

On Saturday, a teary-eyed Rohini, on way to Delhi, alleged she was subjected to misbehaviour at their Patna residence and said she was quitting the party and disowning her family.

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AOA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning reason.

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

JAIDEEP Guin, Vill/P.O. Fakirpur, Dist. Keonjhar, seeks correction in 10th Marksheet: Names wrongly printed as JAIDEEP, JAGANNATH, NEELIMA DEVI to be amended as JAIDEEP GUIN, JAGANNATH GUIN, NILIMA DAS from BSE HARYANA.

Bennett & Coleman THE TIMES OF INDIA
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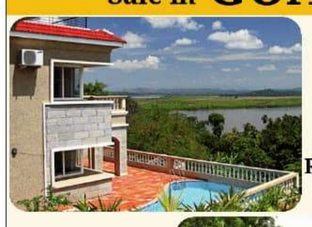
I Vimlesh Kumari Jaiswal W/O, Late Vinod Chandra Jaiswal R/o Flat No-345, DDD Flats Pocket-2 Sector-9 Dwarka, South West Delhi, New Delhi 110077 have changed my name to Vimlesh Kumari as per my Voter ID.

LOST & FOUND

WE, Chinmoy Chakraborty and Chandra Chakraborty, resident of Hardstrasse, 12, Kirchdorf 5416, Switzerland have lost the Share Certificate of 129 Equity Shares of M/s Hitachi Energy India Limited bearing Folio No. APS0154938 and Distinctive Nos. 42093757 to 42093885.

I, Noorullah Wasi, S/o Wasiullah, residing at Ward No.10, Vill+P.O.: Khirma, P. S.: Keoti, Dist: Darbhanga, Bihar-847121, have misplaced my original Master of Business Administration (Business Sustainability) degree certificate for the 2016-2018 batch issued by TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, and my Bachelor of Science (Chemistry Honours) degree certificate for the 2012-2015 batch issued by Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. Despite diligent search, both certificates could not be found. If found by anyone, kindly return them to the undersigned at the above address. Noorullah Wasi. Mobile: +918979529058 Em : tj.nwasi@gmail.com

TIMES interact SPECIAL

Properties for Sale in GOA
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT GROUP Established - 1995

Premium Villas (Price Range: Rs. 3 cr to 8+ cr)
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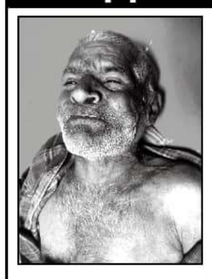
South Delhi + Faridabad + Noida	Raghav Arora	99999 95460
West Delhi + Dwarka + Gurgaon	Aman Pasricha	93126 33518

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER INFORMATION

Name of work	Provision of mandatory facility of pre-cooling cum battery charging (PCBC) points for electrical coaching over Delhi division in connection with station redevelopment of NDLS.
Tender No.	30-Elect-4T-Chg-2025-26
Approx. cost of the work in (Rs.)	Rs. 1,48,03,998/-
Cost of tender form	Rs. 0.00
Address of the Office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 2,24,000/-
Period of completion of work	06 Months
Last date & time of submission of tender	09.12.2025 up to 15.00 hrs.
And opening of tender	09.12.2025 at 15.01 hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr.DEE/Chg/DLI

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3565/2025

Appeal for Identification

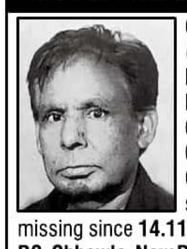


General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name:** Pt. Lala, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 62 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing :** Black & Red Colour Shirt & Brown Colour Lined Pant, was admitted to Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital by his friend Roshan. He was dead on 15.11.2025 while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

In this regard, a **DD No. 0035A, Dated: 15.11.2025** has been lodged at PS Khajuri Khas, Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.
Any, person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., Khajuri Khas North East, Delhi
Ph. : 011-22962735, 8750870727, 9045182546
DP/15518/NE/2025

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON



General public is here by informed that this man (depicted in the Photo) **Namely:** Brij Lal **S/o:** Sh. Madan Lal, **R/o:** Plot No. 89B, B-Block, Taj Pur Enclave, Qutub Vihar, Phase-2, New Delhi, **Age:** 60 Years, **Height:** 5 feet 4 inch, **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Gray colour pant and red colour sweater & hawai slippers in feet, who is mentally unfit, has been missing since **14.11.2025** at 08:00 am from his home under area of **P.S. Chhawla, New Delhi**.
In this regard a **DD No. 85A, dated 14.11.2025** has been lodged at **P.S. Chhawla, New Delhi**.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this man but no clue has come to light so far.
Any person having any information or clue about this man kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO
P.S.- Chhawla, New Delhi
Ph. 011-25316100, 8750871631
DP/15516/DW/2025

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मोदीपुरम, मेरठ–250 110 (उ.प्र.)
Phone: 0121-288 8811, 711, 911 **Web page:** https://iifsr.icar.gov.in
Email: director.iifsr@icar.gov.in, sao.iifsr@icar.gov.in

F.No. 3-24/(1)Estt(RA/SRF/YP)2021 Dated: 17/11/2025

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

It is proposed to conduct Walk-in-Interview for filling up the following positions of Consultant, RA, SRF, JRF, JRA, YP-II, YP-I, Field Worker Field Assistant (purely on contract basis) under different Scheme/Projects at this Institute as per details

S.N.	Position	Post	Projects/Section	Date & Time
1	Consultant	3	True Value Accounting: Making the Economic Case for Food SystemsTransformation	3 Dec, 2025 9.30 A:M
2	Research Associate	1	Pilot Project for Crop Diversification	
3	Young Professional-1	2		
4	Research Associate	1	Project Coordination Unit, AICRP-IFS	
5	Young Professional-2	1		
6	Young Professional-2	1	Network Project on Evaluting Green Ammonia as an Alternate Nitrogenous Fertilizer in Dominant Soil and Cropping Systems of India	4 Dec, 2025 9:30 A:M
7	Field Assistant	1		
8	Young Professional-2	1	ITMU	
9	Young Professional-2	1	Director Cell	
10	Junior Research Fellow	1	National Remote Sensing Project	
11	Field Worker	1	Sustainable intensification of farming systems-food value chain for ensuring food, nutritional and livelihood security of Buxa tribes	5 Dec, 2025 9:30 A:M
12	Young Professional-2	1	Assessing the impact of Natural Farming on predominant cropping systems of Upper Gangetic Plains of India	
13	Young Professional-1	1		
14	Junior Research Assistant	1	Development and On-Farm Validation of Organic Package for commercial Horticultural crops for WPZ of U.P	

Note: No candidates will be entertained after the Date & Time as mentioned above. For details of eligibility, terms and conditions and emoluments etc. Please visit Institute website :http://iifsr.org.in

Senior Admn. Officer

Superintendents of 12 Raj hosps quit against ban on private practice

Jaipur: Superintendents of 12 hospitals attached to SMS Medical College in Jaipur resigned Monday in protest against new rules that ban them from private medical practice, prompting health minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar to invite them for talks within an hour of their resignations, reports **Intishab Ali**.

After attempts to persuade the medical faculty to withdraw their resignations failed, the minister announced a second meeting at SMS Medical College Tuesday to resolve the issue. The en masse resignations were submitted to the secretary of the medical education department through SMS Medical College principal Deepak Maheshwari.

Besides banning private practice by the principals and superintendents of govt-run medical institutions, the new rules notified by the state govt on Nov 11 limit the official clinical and teaching duties to 25% of their overall workload. They mandate the remaining 75% to be spent on administrative tasks.

Officials in the department of medical education said the ban on private practice is aimed at ensuring that senior medical teachers and administrators can dedicate their full attention to the managing increasing patient load and complex administrative tasks that come with running large medical institutions.

Rajasthan medical college teachers' association submitted a memorandum to CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, terming the new rules "arbitrary and biased".

O-1457

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
No. Tender Online - RWCCESNG - 19 of 2025-26, Letter No 3547 /Dtd. 13.11.2025

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work : Road and Bridge (MMSY)
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	**RWCCESNG-19 of 2025-26**	18.11.2025 11:00 AM	03.12.2025 5:00 PM	02.12.2025 5:00 PM	04.12.2025 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh

Anil Ambani skips second ED summons

New Delhi: Anil Ambani of Reliance Group Monday skipped the second summons issued to him by Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning at its headquarters in the national capital in connection with ongoing investigation in a case of alleged violations of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

The central probe agency may issue fresh summons to Ambani asking him to appear in person sometime this week, sources said. While Anil Ambani has been insisting on a virtual appearance, ED is keen on his personal appearance. TNN

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025

IPOs being used as 'exit route': CEA

'Undermines Spirit Of Markets' | Sebi Chief Aims To Double Investor Base In 5 Yrs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Chief economic advisor V Anantha Nageswaran has criticised the trend of IPOs being used as exit routes rather than fundraising tools, stating that this "undermines the spirit of public markets". He called upon banks and financial institutions to become bolder, technologically sharper and more willing to take calculated risks.

The CEA also warned against celebrating wrong milestones like market capitalisation and turnover in the derivatives segment as indications of economic progress. He was speaking at a CII summit.

At the same conference, Sebi chief Tuhin Kanta Pandey said that doubling the investors base in India, by adding another 100 million (10 crore) over three to five years is one of his priorities.

In his speech, the CEA urged the financial sector to guard against complacency, stressing that global shifts demand a more cautious approach to capital flows and market behaviour. He warned that geopolitics is increasingly shaping investment decisions, noting that "capital flows... are now increasingly influenced by political alignments and strategic considerations".

> India's equity markets have grown impressively, but Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) have increasingly become exit vehicles for early investors, rather than mechanisms for raising long-term capital. This undermines the spirit of public markets
>
> —V Anantha Nageswaran | CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR

> A market can deepen only when both supply (new equity, debt and other issuances) and demand (investment by investors) evolve in a balanced manner. In recent years, efforts have been made to expand participation from smaller towns and underserved segments
>
> —Tuhin Kanta Pandey | SEBI CHIEF

This, he said, exposes India to volatility that cannot be addressed by relying on external funding alone. He cautioned that India must strengthen domestic institutions because "external financing alone will be insufficient to meet the scale of our development ambitions".

Nageswaran also flagged the risks emerging from advanced economies, where asset prices are rising even as real economic indicators weaken. Citing the IMF's warning, he said "a potential bust of the AI boom could rival the dot com crash in severity", underscoring the possibility that global corrections could spill into India's markets. He added that "India cannot allow its financial sector to drift away from the real economy", emphasising the need to insulate domestic markets from instability abroad.

The CEA also argued that India "cannot rely predominantly on bank credit for long horizon financing" and must instead build a deep and transparent bond market. Trust and corporate governance, he said, were central to this effort because "the edifice of the bond market will be built on the foundations of trust and transparency".

The CEA also urged policymakers to "avoid the temptation to celebrate prematurely" and called out specific examples of misplaced enthusiasm. "We must guard against celebrating the wrong milestones, such as market capitalisation ratios or the volumes of derivatives traded," he said. Such measures, he added, do not reflect true economic progress and instead "risk diverting domestic savings away from productive investment".

Sebi chief Pandey, during his interaction with the audience, said that a recent, intensive investor survey by Sebi showed that 63% of the people know about the securities market, 22% showed their willingness to invest in the market in the next one year but just 9.5% were actually invested in securities.

Pandey said these numbers indicate that there is a very big responsibility on all the stakeholders, the regulator, the industry and the issuers, to get good quality papers into the market. He also emphasised the need for investor education and built-in safeguards so that they don't get defrauded when they come to invest.

Replying to a query about a possible scenario of a sharp downturn in the US markets over the next few months and its impact on the Indian market, the Sebi chief indicated limited impact on the country's market since lately domestic investors have been playing a very strong role in the Indian market. "The (domestic investors) will be the shields against the shocks that can come," he said.

Pandey also said that the Indian securities market was no longer a passive mirror of the economy but it was now "an active partner in national building". Pandey added that Sebi's agenda is not to add new rules, but the approach is about shaping a smarter rule book that would be simpler to understand, proportionate to the risks it seeks to address and supportive of innovation.

At $41bn, trade deficit hits record high in Oct

Exports Witness Sharpest Monthly Decline In Over A Year, Imports Soar To All-Time High

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India's trade deficit hit a record $41 billion in Oct as exports saw the steepest monthly decline in over a year, and imports rose to an all-time high, driven by a surge in gold and silver shipments into the country.

The 11.8% fall in goods exports to $34.4 billion in Oct — which was lower than the month's trade deficit — was on account of sharp decline in shipments of engineering goods, gems and jewellery, pharma, textiles and chemicals.

In contrast, goods imports jumped 16.7% to $76.1 billion as fertiliser and precious metals saw a spike, while there was a 20% or higher decline in crude petroleum, steel as well as precious and semi-precious stones. Oil imports were down due to lower global prices, while diamond and other semi-precious stone shipments are seen to have declined due to lower demand of finished products in some of the markets, especially the US.

Services, however, did well with exports rising nearly 12% to $38.5 billion in Oct, while imports were 8% higher at $18.6 billion, resulting in a near $20 billion surplus.

"Global (export) growth is falling, and India remains a bright spot... After a dip in Oct we are poised for a good Nov," commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal told reporters. He attributed a part of the fall in exports to high base effect of Oct 2024. Besides, there was an impact of lower prices of petrol and diesel, a key component of India's exports.

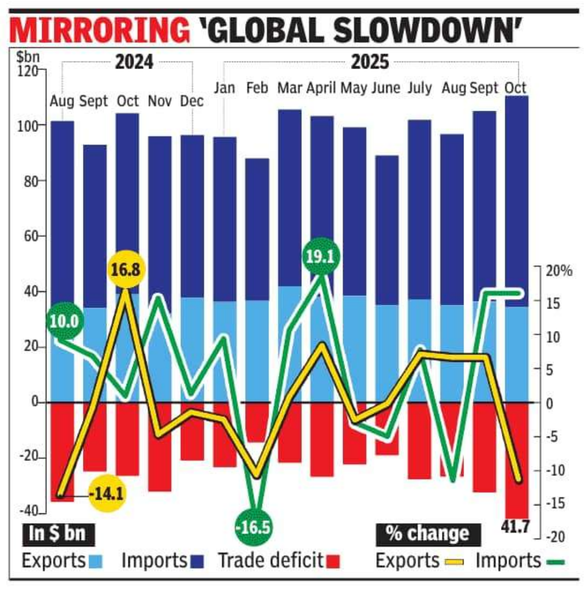
While there was also a decline in goods exports to the US due to steep 50% tariff on Indian products, Agrawal drew comfort from a slower pace of fall. Exports to the US are seen to have fallen 8.7% to $6.3 billion in Oct, it was lower than the 12% decline seen in previous month.

"After growing for four consecutive months in current fiscal year, engineering goods exports declined sharply in Oct 2025, reflecting the impact of punitive tariffs imposed by the Trump administration... The decline in engineering goods shipments in Oct was expected, considering that 50% tariff imposed by the US came into force in last week of Aug," said EEPC India chairman Pankaj Chadha.

Others blamed it on global headwinds. "...export contraction mirrors the broader global economic slowdown, marked by geopolitical uncertainties, subdued demand in multiple major markets, and persistent volatility in commodity prices. Despite such headwinds, Indian exporters have displayed resilience, even as elevated logistics costs and fluctuating input prices continue to challenge competitiveness," Fieo president S C Ralhan said in a statement.

Interventions to boost exports

Agrawal said steps taken by govt, including Export Promotion Mission (EPM), interest subsidy and measures announced by RBI, will aid exporters, especially MSMEs. He said detailed guidelines of various components of EPM will be issued within Nov as govt was keen that benefits of Rs 25,000 crore scheme, spread over six years, quickly flowed to exporters. He added that the mission marks a strategic shift from multiple fragmented schemes to a single, outcome-based and adaptive mechanism that can respond swiftly to global trade challenges and evolving exporter needs.



India, NZ seek to narrow gaps on FTA

Mumbai: Commerce & industry minister Piyush Goyal discussed with New Zealand's minister for trade, Todd McClay, at a meeting here on Monday on the proposed FTA.

Both sides acknowledged that the round resulted in substantive progress, with closure achieved on several elements and a clear shared understanding emerging on pathways to an early and mutually satisfactory conclusion of the agreement, an official statement said.

"The engagement marked an important step in the ongoing negotiations, with both ministers focusing on convergence across key disciplines relating to trade in goods and services," the statement said. They emphasised that a comprehensive and well-balanced FTA would not only accelerate trade flows but also deepen investment linkages, strengthen supply-chain resilience, and provide a transparent, stable, and predictable framework for businesses in both countries. AGENCIES

Byju Raveendran's claims on $533mn challenged in US

Bengaluru: A new court filing in the US bankruptcy case involving Byju's has revived questions around the movement of $533 million from the edtech firm's US financing vehicle, with lenders pointing to a sworn declaration that contradicts founder Byju Raveendran's earlier statements on how the money was used. TNN

Confront rising challenges: Govt tells fin sector

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Govt has said that the financial sector should not fight disintermediation but "take the bull by its horn, work collectively, analyse trends deeply and see how to channelise these so that financial flows become smoother within the domestic economy to all segments that require finance".

Economic secretary Anuradha Thakur said there was a rising financialisation of savings, a shift from deposits to mutual funds and equities, falling CASA ratios and greater reliance on market-based funding.

She said the share of banks in total credit has dropped from 77% to around 60%, IPO activity has increased sixfold, and corporates are relying more on internal resources. These shifts, she said, require industry and regulators to "collectively think" about how to ensure that finance reaches MSMEs and low-income households, describing the financial system as "a strategic driver not only of long-term growth but also of ensuring distributional equity."

She also expressed hope that the recent GST cuts "will ignite the much-needed animal spirits in the financial sector." According to Thakur the new trends "call into question the usual known ways of doing business" and urged industry to confront them directly rather than be unsettled by shifts in savings patterns, credit flows and market-based financing.

She added that MSMEs "face persistent credit constraints which are compounded by delayed payments from large buyers and limited access to formal debt markets," arguing that cash-flow-based lending and technology-driven tools can ease pressures on the sector.

Capital markets, payments cos spar over stablecoins

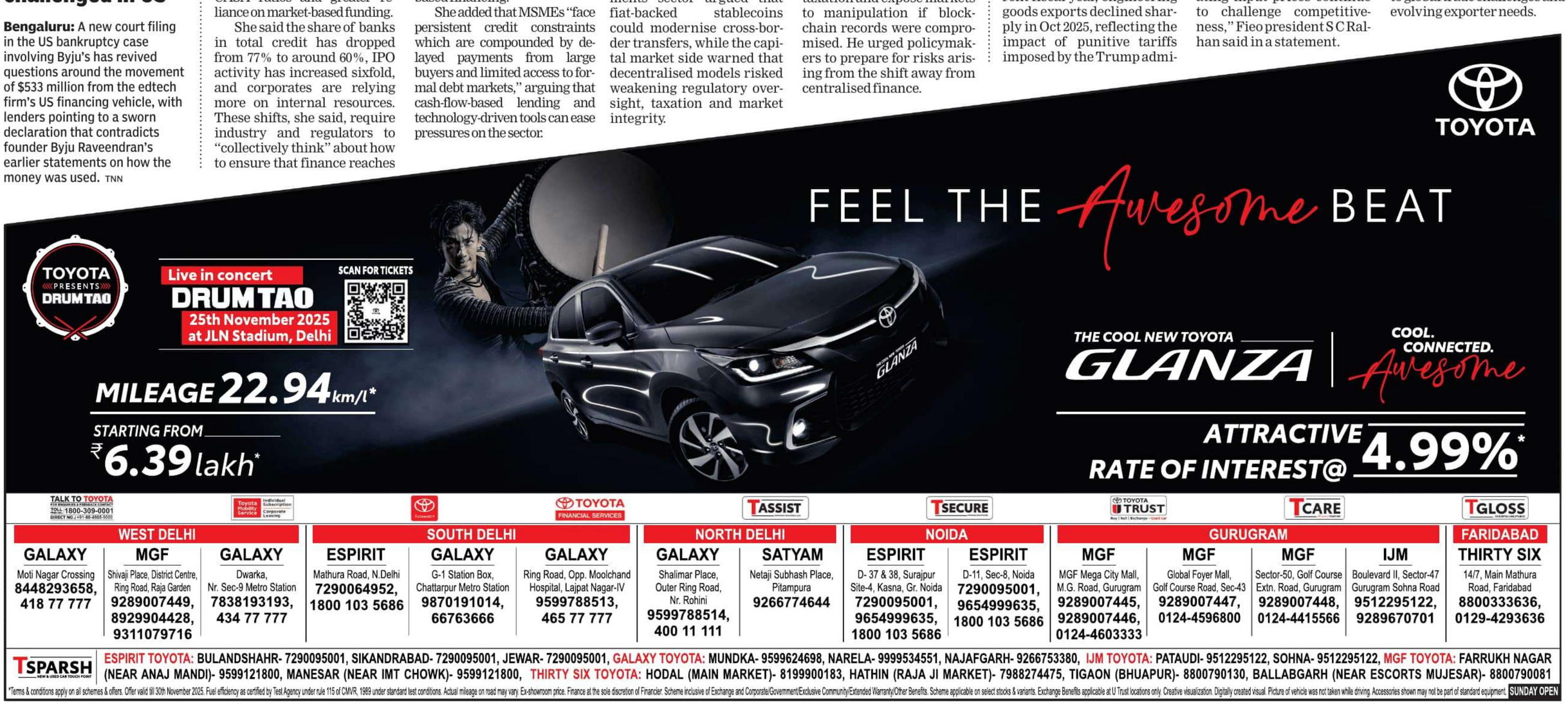
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The capital market and the payments industry have sparred on the future of stablecoins — an instrument over which government and Reserve Bank of India have articulated a cautious yet evolving policy.

At the CII Financing Summit here, where senior financial sector leaders spoke in the presence of senior finance ministry and Sebi officials ahead of Budget preparations, the payments sector argued that fiat-backed stablecoins could modernise cross-border transfers, while the capital market side warned that decentralised models risked weakening regulatory oversight, taxation and market integrity.

Visa's group country manager Sandeep Ghosh said the company is "very bullish about stablecoins" if backed by strong guardrails. He said stablecoins could bring scale, speed and lower costs to remittances and cross-border payments, noting that India should not fall behind global standards.

By contrast, NSE CEO Ashish Chauhan called stablecoins a 'Trojan horse', warning that decentralised systems could undermine the PMLA framework, dilute taxation and expose markets to manipulation if blockchain records were compromised. He urged policymakers to prepare for risks arising from the shift away from centralised finance.



17 electronics parts projects get nod

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt on Monday approved 17 projects under Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), entailing an investment of Rs 7,172 crore. Govt wants greater involvement of domestic companies in electronics supply chain, especially in view of changing geopolitical situation, electronics and IT minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** said on Monday.

These projects are expected to create 11,800 jobs. The new set of approved applications includes that of Jabil, Aequs, ASUX Safety, AT&S, Ehoome IoT, Hi-Q Electronics, UnoMinda and Zetwerk. Other applicants in the list are Meena Electrotech, MicroPack, Rakon, Sahasra, Secure Meters, Sierra Circuits, Syrma Mobility, and TE Connectivity.

Vaishnaw said ECMS is unlocking the next phase of value chain integration, from devices to components and sub-assemblies, ensuring the electronics sector reaches $500 billion in manufacturing value by 2030-31.

He said for a strong global play, India will have to focus on building design teams, ensuring six sigma quality standards in all its products, and partnering with 'Swadeshi' suppliers in projects. Quality systems will be a key part of the evaluation process. "The way geopolitics and geoeconomics are emerging, the challenges will be bigger, and in those challenging periods, your ability to have good supply chain control will define your resilience and ability to compete in difficult times."

The components to be manufactured would serve key sectors, including smartphones, IT hardware, wearables, telecom, EVs, industrial electronics, defence, medical electronics, and renewable energy — all essential building blocks of new economy.

The approved projects entail an investment of Rs 7,172 crore and are expected to create 11,800 jobs

These 17 projects will lead to production worth Rs 65,111 crore. The projects include manufacture of camera modules, multi-layer PCBs, enclosures for electronic devices, connectors, oscillators, and optical transceivers. In first tranche announced on Oct 27, seven applications with investment of Rs 5,532 crore were approved with a potential to create 5,000 jobs.

Oct gold imports surge makes up for H1 deficit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Amid rising prices, Indian consumers were shunning the purchase of gold, resulting in lower import of the yellow metal — both in value and quantity terms — during first half of the financial year.

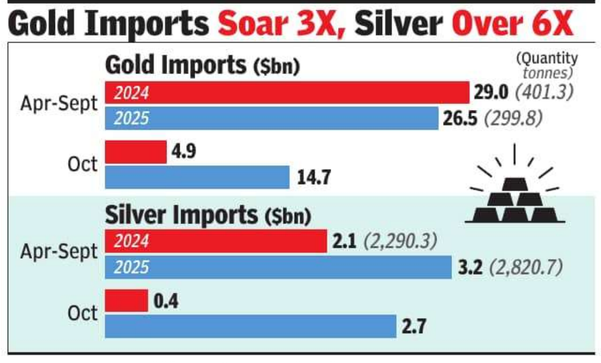
But, they seem to have come back with a vengeance in Oct, coinciding with GST rate reduction, making up for the deficit in the first half. Gold imports are estimated to have surged three times to $14.7 billion in Oct, from $4.2 billion in the corresponding period in 2024. As a result, during April-Oct, gold imports were up 21% to $41.2 billion. (see graphic).

Unlike gold, which is largely seen as an investment, silver imports were up both in value and volume terms. The value of these shipments was seen to be 52% higher at $3.2 billion during the first half. But a 6.3-fold surge to $2.7 billion Oct meant that silver imports so far this year were 2.4 times higher at $5.9 billion.

"The rise in silver imports is attributed to an increase in international price and also due to higher industrial demand in sectors, such as solar panel, electronics, EVs and pharma," DGFT Ajay Bhadoo said, while disclosing the numbers. In the first half, silver prices (based on unit value of imports) are seen to have been 26% higher, while there was a 22% increase in the case of gold.

The spike in Oct is seen to have been due to the festival demand, commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal said. Gold and silver purchases increase ahead of Diwali. "We export around 800 tonnes of gold (annually) and we have crossed the halfway mark. In case we go to the same level of purchase, there will be a challenge because a 20-25% increase in prices will increase the import bill," he said. Apart from Diwali and Dhanteras related demand, some imports may have been on account of the wedding season.

Gold Imports Soar 3X, Silver Over 6X



Sensex rallies for 6th day, gains 388 pts

Mumbai: Stock markets rose for the sixth straight session on Monday, with the benchmark sensex climbing 388 points and Nifty closing above the 26,000 mark following an across-the-board rally and strong quarterly performance by corporates. Rising for the sixth consecutive day, the 30-share BSE sensex climbed 388 points to close at 84,951. During the day, the BSE benchmark surged 425 points to hit an intraday high of 84,988.The broader NSE Nifty rose by 103 points to settle at 26,013. In the intraday session, the NSE Nifty advanced 114 points to hit a high of 26,024. AGENCIES

16th Fin Commission submits report to Prez

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Members of the 16th Finance Commission, led by chairman Arvind Panagariya, with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman after submitting its report to President Droupadi Murmu on Monday

New Delhi: The 16th Finance Commission, headed by economist Arvind Panagariya submitted its report to President Droupadi Murmu on Monday, setting the stage for rolling out recommendations of the panel from April 1 next year.

The report will be available in the public domain once it is tabled in Parliament by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Feb 1, along with the budget documents. The panel also handed over a copy of its report to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and FM.

As per terms of reference (ToR), the commission was mandated to give its report covering a period of five years starting April 1, 2026, giving recommendations on the distribution of net proceeds of taxes between Union govt and the states as well as the allocation of respective shares of such proceeds among the states, grants-in-aid to states, review arrangements on financing disaster management initiatives, among other issues.

During its tenure the commission analysed the finances of the Union and states in detail and has come up with a report after wide-ranging consultations with govt, states, local govts at different tiers, chairpersons and members of previous finance commissions, academic institutions of eminence, multilateral institutions, advisory council to the commission and other domain experts.

"This report has been organised in two volumes where Volume I contains the recommendations as per the ToR and accompanying annexures are in Volume I," said an official statement.

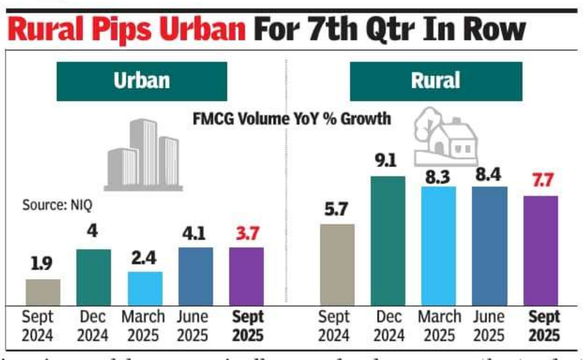
GST disruption slows FMCG sales in Sept qtr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The sales of consumer goods like soaps, shampoos and washing detergents slowed in the Sept quarter in anticipation of the GST cuts, impacting FMCG volume growth sequentially. Volumes grew by 5.4% compared to 6% in the June quarter with the decline being led by the home and personal care categories, data released by NielsenIQ on Monday showed.

As markets prepared for the new GST rates to kick in from Sept 22, consumers delayed purchases to avail benefits of the reduced prices while retailers slowed stocking up shelves, hitting sales of FMCG companies such as HUL and Colgate Palmolive (India). Value growth stood at 12.9% in the quarter, led by a 7.1% increase in prices and down marginally over the previous quarter.

Rural Pips Urban For 7th Qtr In Row



"With inflation easing, the outlook for consumption remains optimistic and the impact of GST changes on consumption is expected in the next two quarters," said Sharang Pant, head of customer success, FMCG, NielsenIQ in India. Value growth and volume growth stood at 5.3% and 3.5%, respectively, in the year-ago period.

Govt cut GST rates on a host of essentials and regular household items to spur consumption; companies are passing on the benefits through a mix of price cuts and grammage increases. Firms had earlier said that markets would resume normal operations from Nov. Even at a slower pace of consumption, rural India grew ahead of urban for the seventh straight quarter, driving FMCG volumes in the July-Sept period. Rural volumes increased by 7.7%, lower than the 8.4% growth recorded in the preceding quarter but higher than urban's 3.7% expansion.

In urban India, smaller towns are leading the demand recovery given that the shift to online channels is not yet as rampant as in the metros where people are increasingly shifting to quick commerce platforms. NIQ typically doesn't combine the online and offline retail sales data.

"Metropolitan areas continue to experience a decline in offline sales owing to a shift towards e-comm," analysts at NIQ said, adding that the top eight metros lead online adoption. In Delhi-NCR and Kolkata, for instance, e-commerce growth has surpassed that of modern trade channels. Broader consumption has been tepid over the past few quarters weighed down by weak urban demand where high inflation had hit spending. Companies are betting on low inflation, GST cuts and income tax benefits to fuel demand going ahead with market leader HUL hinting at a better second half this FY.

"Sustaining this momentum will rneed deeper channel engagement and sharper, value-led propositions. The industry is entering a phase where agility and consumer-centric innovation will be critical to future success," NIQ said.

Tracking tools become mainstay in IT, BPM cos

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: IT and BPM firms are accelerating the use of advanced productivity tools that provide clients with real-time operational insights. Many of these tools include built-in time tracking, analyse workforce patterns, and proactively flag inefficiencies in performance trends.

Tracking workforce productivity has been part of industry routines, largely at the clients' behest, as companies seek to monitor billable employees and maintain effective oversight.

Cognizant, Wipro, and LTIMindtree are using workforce management platform ProHance's productivity solutions selectively, tailoring deployment to client requirements to shape project outcomes in hybrid work models.

Meanwhile, TCS, French IT major Capgemini, and HCLTech are understood to rely on Sapience to gauge employee productivity, engagement, and performance, giving team leaders data-driven insights to strengthen overall efficiency. Many firms use multiple tools to track workforce efficiency. Capgemini employees log their work hours through an electronic timesheet application and Sapience Buddy, which captures data on work patterns and productivity, sources told **TOI**.

Emails sent to TCS, Wipro, HCLTech, LTIMindtree, and Capgemini did not elicit responses till the time of going to press. Recent media reports also noted that a ProHance case study claimed Cognizant saved approximately $8 million in a year through the use of its productivity software.

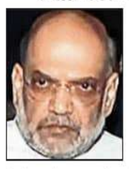
When **TOI** reached out to Cognizant, its spokesperson said, "We occasionally use various productivity measurement tools, a common industry practice, in selecting business process management or intuitive operations & automation projects, at the request of customers The purpose of these tools is to help better understand the client process steps and related time metrics to assess process design inefficiencies as part of the process transformation efforts. These tools are not designed or used to track or evaluate the individual performance of employees. Also, tools are used after obtaining the consent of employees, and it is made clear that these are not used for performance evaluation. Additionally, these tools have no impact on the composition of teams engaged in these projects, and any suggestion to the contrary is incorrect."

Cognizant also uses the D+ Scorecard, which generates performance scores for business unit heads across delivery, practice, and transformation teams, while Ideabox captures comprehensive initiative details—including timelines, stages, nominees, approvers, and expected benefits and dollar savings. During the pandemic, many firms adopted AI tools to monitor the productivity of remote employees and prevent fraud—efforts aimed at boosting client confidence.

Will hunt down blast culprits even from netherworld: Shah

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Reiterating the "collective commitment" of Narendra Modi govt to eliminating terrorism from its root, home minister **Amit Shah** on Monday said culprits of the Nov 10 car bomb blast in Delhi shall be traced from the depths of the netherworld, produced before the judicial system and handed the strictest possible punishment.



Addressing the 32nd meeting of the northern zonal council (NZC) in Faridabad, Haryana — attended by chief ministers, Lieutenant Governors and administrators of several northern states — Shah said the zonal councils, which are sub-groups of the Inter-State Council that meet from time to time to resolve inter-state and Centre-state issues, have played an important role in realising PM Modi's vision of strong nation made up of strong states. These zonal councils, he underlined, are extremely important for dialogue, cooperation, coordination, and 'policy synergy'.

During the meeting, Shah, along with the chief ministers of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Rajasthan and Delhi; LGs of J&K, Delhi and Ladakh; and the administrator of Chandigarh, observed two minutes silence as a tribute to the victims of Delhi car bomb blast and the recent explosion at Nowgam police station in J&K.

Emphasising the continued need for all-out efforts to ensure speedy justice in crimes against women and children and also eradicate malnutrition and stunting, Shah called for speedy investigation in cases of sexual offences and rape under the Pocso Act, besides seeking an increase in the number of fast track special courts.

Cong ex-MP links Delhi blast to 'injustice' in Kashmir

New Delhi: Former Congress MP Husain Dalwai sparked a controversy Monday by linking the Nov 10 Red Fort blast to "injustice" in Kashmir and questioning its occurrence during the Bihar elections, drawing instant condemnation from BJP as it targeted the opposition party for its "justification" of the terror act. Dalwai asked why such incidents occur during elections and demanded a probe into this, a remark that seemed to suggest that the blast was timed to coincide with the Bihar polls' second phase of voting (Nov 11).

He then went on to allege that injustice is being done in Kashmir, which will have some consequences.

BJP hit back at Congress, accusing the party of speaking the language of separatists in Kashmir. "MMC (Muslim League Mao Congress) justifies Red Fort blast. Quotes former home minister P Chidambaram in defence. Shame," said BJP spokesperson Amit Malviya using the description that PM Narendra Modi used post-Bihar polls to attack Congress.

Malviya's colleague, Shehzad Poonawalla lashed out at the Congress leader for refusing to condemn "Islamic jihad". "After Mehbooba Mufti, now Hussian Dalwai jumps in to become a spin doctor for terror. In a sense he gives clean chit to the Delhi blast accused," he said.

As his remarks drew criticism, Dalwai sought to clarify it and said there is no doubt that terrorists were behind the blast and that he can never support violence. TNN

NIA arrests Srinagar student linked to Red Fort bomber

Father Had Set Himself On Fire Hours Earlier, Died Later

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) announced Monday the arrest of a Kashmiri college student from Srinagar linked to Delhi suicide bomber Dr Umar Un Nabi.

Hours after the suspect's father died in hospital of burns suffered in a purported immolation attempt outside their home in Anantnag district's Qazigund.

Jasir Bilal Wani, aka Danish, had been detained four days ago for interrogation along with his paternal uncle Nabeel Wani, a physics teacher. The family said Jasir's father Bilal Ahmad Wani, 55, was summoned by police last Saturday and he returned home "distressed".

The next morning, Bilal walked out of his house in the Wanpora neighbourhood of Qazigund and set himself ablaze, resulting in severe burns. The dry fruits trader died at Srinagar's SMHS Hospital early Monday.

NIA issued a statement confirming that Jasir's interrogation over the past few days yielded clues to the Delhi blast, including what the agency said was his "active involvement" in the car blast that killed 14 people and wounded over 30 people.

"Investigations have revealed that Jasir allegedly provided technical support for terror attacks by modifying drones and attempting to make rockets ahead of the deadly car bomb blast," NIA said. "The accused was a co-conspirator who worked closely with the terrorist, Umar Un Nabi, to plan the terror carnage."

ANI

Police carry out security checks at Jammu railway station on Monday amid heightened security following the blast near Delhi's Red Fort

Shaheen & Parvez's travels abroad hold key to terror plot

Pathikrit.Chakraborty
@timesofindia.com

Lucknow: The UP anti-terrorist squad (ATS) has expanded its probe into the foreign travels and overseas associations of **Dr Shaheen Shahid**, arrested in the white-collar error module case, and her detained brother Dr Parvez.

Investigators are treating the international travels of the siblings as a crucial thread in understanding the radical network they are suspected to be part of, senior officers told **TOI**.

The inquiry now spans Saudi Arabia, Maldives and Turkey, apart from multiple Indian states.

According to ATS sources, Shaheen stayed in Saudi Arabia for two years in 2013-2014. Investigators are examining where she lived, worked in the medical sector as claimed, and whether she came in contact with any individuals monitored by foreign intelligence agencies. Her interactions, local references and financial inflows during her stay abroad are being mapped to determine whether any link connects her to the JeM module under investigation. Parvez's visit to the Maldives in 2016 is also being analysed. While he reportedly worked at a private establishment there, ATS is probing if his stay overlapped with any known recruiters or radical influencers operating in the island nation. His bank transactions, employer history and communication records during his years abroad are now part of the expanded scrutiny.

Although there is no evidence yet that any of the brother-sister duo visited any "enemy country", investigators have zeroed in on a Turkish national with whom Shaheen maintained online communication. Agencies are tracing the individual's identity, digital footprint and potential role, if any, in guiding or influencing her activities.

Officials said the case remains in its "formative but high-priority stage," with multiple leads pointing towards coordinated foreign exposure, suspicious communication patterns, and deliberate identity manipulation.

Al-Falah univ founder's brother held in 25-yr-old case

Karishma.Kotwal
@timesofindia.com

Indore: Al-Falah university founder Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui's brother, Hamood Siddiqui, was arrested in Hyderabad on Sunday by MP Police in a 25-year-old financial fraud case registered in Indore. The arrest comes at a time when some of the university's faculty members have been arrested in connection with Faridabad explosives seizure and Delhi Red Fort blast case. Police are now investigating whether the proceeds from the fraud were used for terror funding.

Hamood Siddiqui, 50, was wanted in three cheating cases registered in 2000 under IPC section 420, besides rioting and attempted murder cases dating back to 1988 and 1989. A four-member police team from Mhow in Indore district was dispatched to Hyderabad after receiving specific inputs about Hamood's whereabouts. "He traced to Hyderabad and brought back under a special drive launched to locate long-wanted fugitives," Indore (rural) SP Yangchen Dolkar Bhutia said.

When asked whether the proceeds of the crime had been used for terror funding, Bhutia told **TOI**: "We are investigating the angle right now. We have brought him to Mhow; now we are finding out where the money has gone and how he rerouted it. He had invested money in Mhow, purchased land, started his own company in Hyderabad — and must have used the money there." Investigation into his financial activities is underway.

Notify tiger parks' core zones within 6 mths: SC to states

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Aiming to strengthen the existing regime for tiger protection, the Supreme Court on Monday issued a slew of directions to the states including giving a six-month deadline to demarcate and notify core and buffer areas of tiger reserves and put in place within three months comprehensive tiger conservation plans (TCPs).

In one of his last of important judgments prior to retirement on Nov 23 relating to protection of environment, flora and fauna, CJI B R Gavai-led bench said a steering committee headed by the chief minister would be constituted for each tiger reserve within two months for implementation of the directions of the expert committee set up on SC's directions by the Union ministry of environment forest and climate change.

The tourism in tiger reserves, which often turned into noisy late-night parties, would now have to conform to the guidelines set by the National Tiger Conservation Authority. The expert committee recommended designating tiger reserves and corresponding eco-sensitive areas as 'silence zones' and phasing out night safaris and banning the stay of tourists in core areas at night.

On the presence of religious sites within tiger reserves, the bench said the influx of devotees must be regulated to avoid disturbance to the wildlife. Importantly, the bench focused on improving the service condition of forest guards and personnel.

Asking the ministry of environment and forest and central empowered committee to set up a special cell to give a report within a year on staffing pattern and cadre requirement in all tiger reserves, the bench said states will, based on the report, fill the posts.

File photo

MARKING THEIR TERRITORY

SC issues notice on plea to lift 7-year-old stay in Corbett case

New Delhi: It was an ex-parte interim stay order by Supreme Court on a CBI probe into tiger poaching in Jim Corbett National Park, but it has continued to be in force for the last seven years.

On Monday, Supreme Court finally issued notice on a plea for lifting the stay to pave the way for investigations into the case, reports **Amit Anand Choudhary**.

A bench of Chief Justice B R Gavai and justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria agreed to hear the plea after senior advocate Meenakshi Arora and lawyer Govid Jee brought it to the court's notice that the stay order had been in operation for the last seven years despite the CBI's preliminary enquiry suggesting "connivance of forest officers/officials with poachers".

Arora, appearing for environmentalist Atul Sati, told the apex court that the CBI report had suggested the involvement of the officer who got the stay order from the court. The counsel for the officer countered her plea and sought time to file a response. The court thereafter granted the lawyer three weeks' time.

Trump backs bill for 500% embargo on countries buying Russian oil, gas

It Also Has Support In Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

iStock

Trump reiterated that any country doing business with Russia would be 'very severely sanctioned'

Washington: India announced a landmark LPG purchase deal with the United States even as President Donald Trump backed a bill that would sanction countries purchasing Russian oil and gas by up to 500%.

Trump warned on Sunday that any country doing business with Russia would be "very severely sanctioned", as his administration and Republican lawmakers advance tough legislation targeting Moscow.

"They're passing legislation... the Republicans are putting in legislation... very tough sanctioning... on any country doing business with Russia. They may add Iran to that... I suggested it," he said.

"So any country that does business with Russia will be very severely sanctioned. We may add Iran to the formula," Trump reiterated.

A bill introduced by Senator Lindsey Graham proposes a 500% tariff on secondary purchase and reselling of Russian oil. The proposal has near-unanimous backing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The legislation still has some distance to go. Senators Graham & Richard Blumenthal, who first introduced the bill in April 2025, said in a joint statement Sunday that "the ultimate hammer to bring about the end of this war will be tariffs against countries, like China, India and Brazil, that prop up Putin's war machine by purchasing cheap Russian oil and gas."

Bilateral ties, not high tariffs, guide trade decisions: Official

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Amid a threat of additional levies for trade ties with Russia, an official on Monday said that countries will decide on trade based on their interests.

"...for each country, trade with other countries is based on their bilateral relationship, (it is) based on their economic requirement and these carry on. In addition, every country will have a perspective. I don't think our trade decisions will be guided by that (higher tariffs)," the official said.

The comments came after US President Donald Trump threatened on Sunday to "very severely sanction" countries that maintain trade ties with Russia as he sought to mount further pressure on Moscow. Even as it negotiates a trade deal with the US and navigates through a 50% tariff, due to Russian oil purchases, govt has maintained that it will keep the country's economic interest paramount.

On Monday, a senior official said India and the US were nearing closure of talks for the first tranche which will focus on the proposed bilateral trade deal, covering reciprocal and other tariffs. "But it is difficult to put a deadline since final closure is most difficult," the official added.

India is looking for easing of the reciprocal tariff of 25% imposed on a bulk of its exports to US as well as removal of an additional 25% secondary tariffs due to oil purchases from Russia

India is looking for easing of the reciprocal tariff of 25% imposed on a bulk of its exports to the US as well as removal of an additional 25% secondary tariffs due to oil purchases from Russia.

"When you address reciprocal tariffs, you will have to address both, then it will have an impact...The US can decide whether the secondary tariffs go first or are part of the deal," the official said.

The trade agreement, which is to be signed by Fall, is likely to include multiple packages, with the initial one focused on trade. While six rounds of negotiations have taken place, officials had recently said that now an announcement is awaited as the talks are "largely complete".

"The idea is to address our tariff issues and their concerns on market access," the official said, adding that the part on reciprocal tariffs will be sorted out soon.

Was eying US buy, it wasn't part of any talks per se: Official

▶Continued from P1

While the exact figures remain confidential, analysts peg Mont Belvieu propane at roughly $650–$700 per metric tonne and butane at $550–$600 per tonne as of Nov 2025.

Historically, India has leaned on Gulf partners, mainly Qatar, UAE and Saudi, for over 80% of its LPG imports. Qatar dominates with a 27% share (down from 32% in 2012–13), followed by UAE at 26% and Saudi at 19%. These Gulf majors have been reliable, but volatility, exacerbated by Red Sea disruptions and OPEC+ cuts, prompted US outreach, according to New Delhi.

"India has been contemplating purchasing from the US for long. It's not part of any negotiation per se," commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal said, adding that the idea is to keep trade more balanced.

Recent data suggested that India's crude imports from US have climbed to the highest level since March 2021, indicating that it is not just diversifying its oil purchases but also looking to address the US administration's concern. India is also looking to purchase more American products, though the commerce secretary did not comment on the issue.

The deal followed talks between IndianOil, BPCL and HPCL and major US producers over the last few months, oil minister **Hardeep Puri** said.

India ran a trade surplus of $42 billion with the US during the last financial year, exporting goods worth $86 billion.

During his recent visit to DC for trade talks, commerce minister Piyush Goyal had said that India was open to more energy purchases from the US as it will need fuel to meet its growth requirements.

5 more bodies recovered, Sonbhadra mine toll hits 6

Rajeev Dikshit | TNN

Varanasi: Six labourers were confirmed dead in the Billi Markundi stone mine in UP's Sonbhadra district after rescuers clawed into fractured slopes and heaved out five more bodies from the rubble early Monday, two days after a section of the open-cast pit collapsed during drilling.

One labourer — identified as Raju Singh — had been pulled out earlier, his body handed to his kin after autopsy and cremated Sunday. Those found later were Santosh (30) and his brother Indrajeet (32) of Karmsar Pasari; Ramkhelawan (40) of Panari Tola; Ravindra of Kachnarwa Parasia Kone; and Kripashankar (32) of Karmsar Panari — all discovered under layers of rock.

Earthmovers, backed by NDRF and SDRF, kept stripping debris at the mine operated by Krishna Mining Works as family members of a missing man, Munshi, waited, fearing he remained trapped. DM Badrinath Singh said at least eight workers were feared trapped, while eyewitnesses put the number at 15-16.

Minister Ravindra Jaiswal met families and announced compensation exceeding Rs 20 lakh for each household. He said officials had been instructed to complete autopsies quickly. According to DM Singh, Rs 5 lakh will be released by the mining department, Rs 1.25 lakh under the skilled labourers' scheme, and over Rs 12 lakh ensured by the deputy labour commissioner as payment from the company.

An FIR has been filed against the private leaseholder after workers drilling with nine compressor machines triggered a massive rock collapse that buried labourers.

Op Sindoor was just an 88-hr trailer: Army chief

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Operation Sindoor against Pakistan in May was just an "88-hour trailer" without the film actually beginning, Army chief General **Upendra Dwivedi** said Monday, warning that the Indian armed forces were fully ready to "teach" the western adversary "how to behave responsibly" if the need arose in future.

General Dwivedi also said relations between India and China have improved a lot since Oct last year after dialogue among the leaders of the two nations to usher in "normalcy", with military commanders on the ground also regularly meeting to resolve local issues.

Addressing a curtain raiser event of the Chanakya Defence Dialogue, the Army chief delivered a stern message to Pakistan by stressing that as per the "new normal" India will continue to consider terrorists and their supporters alike.

"Blood and water cannot flow together. Talks and terror cannot go together. India focuses on progress and prosperity. If someone creates obstacles in our path, then we will have to take some action against them," he added.

Alluding to Pakistan's nuclear sabre-rattling, General Dwivedi said "India is in a position today where it is not scared of any blackmailing". India has the political will and military capabilities, which are increasing by the day, for the requisite deterrence, he said.

"Deterrence works only when the adversary believes you will act the way you warn them...the other side takes your resolve seriously. Today, our deterrence is working," he said. On lessons learnt from Op Sindoor, General Dwivedi stressed the importance of integration among the Army, IAF, Navy and other forces, the need for timely decision-making at every level of the command chain, and ensuring proper ammunition and other supplies for even long-drawn out battles.

He said the situation in J&K has improved significantly after the scrapping of Article 370 in Aug 2019. "After this, political clarity has come. There has been a huge decline in terrorism...," he said, adding that of the 31 militants eliminated this year, over 60% were of Pakistani-origin.

2 UP cops rape survivor of gang rape, extort ₹50,000 to 'act against accused'

Rahul.Singh1
@timesofindia.com

In her submission, the woman said she was kidnapped in Nov 2024 by four men, drugged, and held captive for 48 days across Aligarh and other places, during which she was raped repeatedly and forcibly converted. She said one accused had first contacted her on Instagram and later connected her with the other men involved

Meerut: Two sub-inspectors in Bulandshahr were suspended after a 28-year-old gang-rape survivor alleged that the officers raped her for two days and extorted Rs 50,000 by claiming the money was needed to take action against her assaulters.

The woman filed a complaint last week through the Integrated Grievance Redressal System (IGRS) portal, prompting senior police officers to order an inquiry into the conduct of the officers in the Khurja area, where she had earlier lodged her gang-rape complaint.

Bulandshahr SSP Dinesh Kumar, told **TOI** that the woman had first approached the police with a gang-rape complaint against four men, after which one accused was arrested. The SSP added, "The fresh allegations against the two officers were serious and both were suspended with immediate effect. The woman has changed her version multiple times and is now unwilling to file a formal complaint specifically naming the officers, which has made internal proceedings more complex although the suspension remains in force."

In her detailed submission, the woman said she was kidnapped in Nov last year by four men, drugged, and held captive for 48 days across Aligarh and other locations, during which she was raped repeatedly and forcibly converted. She said one of the accused had first contacted her on Instagram and later connected her with the other men involved.

She added that after she managed to escape and reported the matter to the police, a sub-inspector allegedly summoned her to a private residence and raped her multiple times over two days, while another officer took Rs 50,000 from her after telling her the money was necessary to secure the arrest of the accused. She also alleged that her husband was detained at the police station and threatened with a false case to force her into complying with the officers' demands.

She added she was recently attacked by two unidentified bike-borne men, though no FIR has been registered in that matter yet. She has also claimed that police delayed her initial FIR and that some of the accused, who she said were influential, threatened her family and attempted to silence her.

Kumar said the investigation into the original gang-rape case established the involvement of only one accused, the man who had contacted her on Instagram. He said police verified the call detail records and mobile phone locations of the three other men she named and did not find evidence placing them at the locations she mentioned. The man who was found involved was arrested and sent to jail.

Washroom talk led to bribery case against Maha judge

Mumbai: A conversation between a court clerk and a man in a court washroom is alleged to be the genesis of a case that led to an ASJ being named an accused and the clerk's arrest in a Rs 15 lakh bribery case, reports **Rebecca Samervel**. Clerk Chandrakant Vasudev allegedly told the man, who had come to attend proceedings involving his colleague: "Do something for saheb (the judge), and the order will be in your favour."

The state ACB made these submissions in a remand plea seeking Vasudev's judicial custody. Vasudev, 40, a clerk-typist at civil sessions court, Mazgaon, was allegedly caught accepting a Rs 15 lakh bribe from a Bandra litigant on Nov 11. Judge Ejazuddin Kazi, accused of playing an "active role", is absconding. Vasudev allegedly said he accepted the bribe for Kazi, ASJ, court 14, Mazgaon. In the presence of witnesses, he placed a WhatsApp call to the judge, who allegedly consented to the amount.

The trap money included Rs 4 lakh in genuine currency and Rs 11 lakh in "toy" notes. Vasudev told ACB he had worked with the judge for a year, shared a "cordial relationship", and often sought his help on personal issues. He was sent to judicial custody, with his bail plea due on Wednesday.

Pvt school van driver held for molesting 3 minor girls in Mum

V.Narayan@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: A private school van driver was arrested Saturday for allegedly groping and touching three minor schoolgirls inappropriately under the pretext of helping them get into the van.

The 48-year-old accused was arrested from his Santacruz (West) residence by the Juhu police on Saturday. He was remanded to police custody after being presented in a city court.

The incident happened on Nov 13, and a complaint was registered with Santacruz police on Nov 15, after one of the minors narrated the incident to her mother. Taking the matter seriously, the case was registered, and soon after receiving the case file, the Juhu police arrested the accused as the offence occurred in their jurisdiction.

"The van does not belong to the school and is a private vehicle that picks up students from outside the school," said the police.

"The driver molested three schoolgirls aged 8, 9, and 11 while picking them up from a private school in Juhu on Nov 13. He has been booked under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita section 75 (assault or criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and under the Pocso Act section 8," said a police officer of Juhu police station.

The case came to light after one of the minors recounted the incident to her mother and referred to the 'good touch and bad touch'.

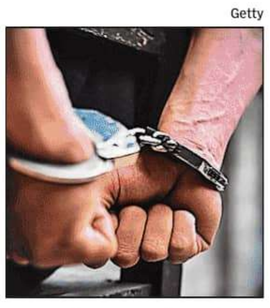
SCHOOL SHOCKER

In the complaint, the 11-year-old's mother said: "My daughter informed me about the incident on Nov 15. She said the driver molested her while he picked her up to get into the van parked outside the school gate."

A police officer said the accused driver first groped the 11-year-old and then touched her inappropriately. "The victim also informed her mother that the driver molested her two friends, aged 8 and 9, with bad touch," said the officer.

Home guard forced to drink, gang-raped in K'taka; four arrested

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Getty

According to police, the crime took place when the woman came to Kushtagi town to meet her acquaintances. The survivor told police that she was taken on a bike to an abandoned house & raped by the four men

Koppal: A 39-year-old home guard was allegedly gang-raped after being forced to drink alcohol by four individuals near Madlur village in Karnataka's Koppal district on Sunday night. She was admitted to the district hospital and her condition is said to be critical.

Police said the four accused — Lakshman Kenchappa Karaguli, Basavaraj Sakreppa, Bhimappa Maski and Shashikumar Maski — had been arrested, and remanded in judicial custody by a court.

Initial probe revealed that the woman and Lakshman Kenchappa Karaguli were known to each other.

According to police, the crime took place when the woman came to Kushtagi town to meet her acquaintances. The survivor told police that she was taken on a bike to an abandoned house in Madlur, where she was forced to drink alcohol and then raped by the four men.

The woman called up the police's Emergency Response Support System. On arriving at the spot, cops took her to a govt hospital in Yelburga. She was later shifted to KIMS Hospital in Koppal district for further treatment, police said.

The woman's husband, who visited her at the hospital, said he was told that she had met with an accident.

Govt hikes print ad rates by 26%

New Delhi: The govt has approved a 26% upward revision in advertisement rates for print media, the first adjustment since 2019. Under the new structure, black-and-white advertisement rates for dailies with a circulation of one lakh copies have been increased from Rs 47.40 to Rs 59.68 per sq cm. The govt has also accepted the Rate Structure Committee's recommendations on premium rates for colour ads and preferential positioning.

Central Bureau of Communication, I&B ministry's nodal media unit for releasing govt advertisements, will implement the revised rates. The last revision was carried out on Jan 9, 2019, based on recommendations of the 8th RSC, and remained valid for three years.

The 9th Rate Structure Committee was constituted on Nov 11, 2021 to review advertisement rates for print media. The committee examined factors such as changes in newsprint prices, WPI inflation, wage costs, imported newsprint trends and processing expenses before submitting its report on Sept 23, 2023. Officials said the revision reflects the committee's assessment of costs faced by print publications in recent years. TNN

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ASSAM HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT SOCIETY
4TH FLOOR, NAYANTARA SUPERMARKET, SIXMILE
GUWAHATI-781022

ECF No. 716642/77

REQUEST FOR BIDS
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

REPAIR AND RENOVATION WORKS OF NURSING INSTITUTE.

Project Director, Assam Health Infrastructure Development and Management Society (AHIDMS) invites "Request for Bid" from reputed Organization having wide experience in Civil Works for:

"Repair and renovation works in GNM Training Centre at Kanaklata Civil Hospital, GNM School of Nursing at Civil Hospital Majuli & GNM School of Nursing, Dhemaji under ASSIST project."

The details may be seen in the Request for Bid document uploaded in the Assam E-procurement portal **(https://assamtenders.gov.in)** & **https://ahidms.assam.gov.in**

The applicant must be registered with the E-Tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam. **(Website: https://assamtenders.gov.in).** The Project Director, Assam Health Infrastructure Development & Management Society reserves the right to accept or reject all bids without showing any reasons whatsoever.

Sd/-
Project Director
Assam Health Infrastructure Development & Management Society

Janasanyog/DIPR/CF/TOI/2635/18-Nov-25

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: **www.noidaauthorityonline.in & https://etender.up.nic.in.** Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) Fresh-Tender Work

S. No	Jobs No.	Name of the work	Tender Amount (Rs.Lacs)
1.	21/DGM/SM (WC-3)/2025-26	M/o Road (Repair and Painting work on footpath and Central Verge MP-3 road Sector-71 Underpass to Mahamaya Flyover DSC road Aghapur road and 45.00 mtr. wide road), Noida.	221.26

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 02.12.2025 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 03.12.2025 at 11.00 AM.

B) Re-Tender Work

S. No	Jobs No.	Name of the work	Tender Amount (Rs.Lacs)
2.	16/DGM/SM (WC-1)/2025-26	M/o Building (C/o New One Number of Cow Shed, New R.C.C. Framed Structure Quarters for Gow Rakshaks repair of old Haudi & repair of Floor of Old Cow Shed at Gowshala near Shani Mandir in front of Sector-14A), Noida.	163.29

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 24.11.2025 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 25.11.2025 at 11.00 AM.

Dy. General Manager (Civil)
Sector-6, NOIDA **NOIDA**

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

E-mail Id : walkininterview.dgmh@gmail.com
Office of the Director General, Medical &Health Services, Uttar Pradesh
Ref. No.: 2 Fa/ Walk In Interview /2025-26/2374 Lucknow: Dated 17/11/2025

Advertisement

The applications are invited through online and portal will be open dated 18-11-2025 to 26-11-2025. The appointment will be made through walk-in Interview and decision of committee will be final as per G.O. no.- 1858/सेक-2-पांच-17-7(67)/2017, dated 22-06-2017 and G.O. no.- 2997/सेक-2-पांच-17-7(67)/2017, dated 19-07-2017. Selected specialist/M.B.B.S. doctors will be posted in rural or urban hospitals as per requirements.

For details of district wise vacancies and mode of on-line application, kindly visit the following websites:
1. https://walkin.dgmhup.in
2. http://dgmhup.gov.in
Please note that the date for submission of on-line application is 18-11-2025 to 26-11-2025.

(Dr. Ratan Pal Singh Suman)
Director General
Medical & Health
Uttar Pradesh

UPID 240660 dt 17.11.2025 www.upgov.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PT.B.D.SHARMA UHS ROHTAK	RATE CONTRACT OF PRINTING OF DEGREE	24.11.2025 23.12.2025	RS. 20000/-	www.uhsr.ac.in	9991316385 coe@uhsr.ac.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in **RO 40372**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDABAD	WIDENING OF RMC ROAD, P/L 80MM THICK INTERLOCKING TILE AND CONSTRUCTION OF SLIP ROAD FOR BEAUTIFICATION OF SECTOR-17 MODERN SCHOOL ROAD AND MOTHER DAIRY ROAD IN SECTOR-17 OF WARD NO-35 OLD FARIDABAD	11.11.2025 24.11.2025	1,93,42,851/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9914544004 xenmcf3@gmail.com
2	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDABAD	PROVIDING WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM FOR CIVIC AMENITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIENT AREA AND OTHER APPROVED AREA IN FARIDABAD TOWN UNDER AMRUT PROGRAM (PROVIDING RISING MAIN FROM 36 TUBEWELLS ALONG GURUGRAM CANAL TO 5 NO. CWR.)	12.11.2025 12.12.2025	9,37,93,377/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8750551500 eo-sohna@ulbharyana.gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in **RO 40379**

CAD-2345

INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF ODISHA LIMITED
(An ISO 9001-2008 Certified State Level Nodal Agency)
IPICOL HOUSE, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022, ODISHA,
Tel: 0674-2542601 Fax: 0674-2543766

Tender Call Notice PL-681/2025/ 5613 **15.11.2025**

Sealed bids are invited from the registered Manpower Service Provider Agency for supplying of manpower on outsourced basis to IPICOL. Interested Bidders are advised to obtain the tender document from Administration division, IPICOL office on working day from 17.11.2025 to 10.12.2025 up to 2.00 PM on payment of non-refundable fees of Rs.1180.00/- (Rupees one thousand one hundred eighty) only or also be downloaded from the website **www.ipicolodisha.com**. The interested parties are requested to send sealed bid address to Chief General Manager (P&A.), IPICOL, Janpath, BBSR-751022 by speed post/Regd. post or drop their sealed bids in the tender box on or before on 10.12.2025 at 2.00 PM along with attaching required documents and same will be opened at 4.00 PM on dtd.10.12.2025 (technical bids) and at 4.00 PM on dtd.19.12.2025 (financial bids) at conference hall of the IPICOL (1st floor.)

The details of the tender may please be seen in the official website: **www.ipicolodisha.com** and corrigendum/addendum if any will also be published in our official website.

Sd/-
C.G.M. (P&A)

CONTRAPUNTO

People on the far left claim to be about free speech. But as soon as you put something out there that offends them, all of a sudden free speech is out of the window

STEPHEN MILLER

Revenge Trial

Judgment on Hasina is legally dodgy. And Dhaka is now a major security concern for New Delhi

She may not appreciate the irony – the court Sheikh Hasina set up in 2010 sentenced her yesterday to death, judges falling in step with the current Dhaka regime. Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) was instituted to try Pakistani war criminals and their Bengali collaborators for the genocide carried out during Bangladesh's 1971 liberation struggle. Trying war criminals was a big demand of Bangladeshi civil society that sought justice for the 3 million killed and 250,000 women raped during 1971. The Hasina govt had responded to this, set up the ICT, and sentenced several Jamaat war criminals to death.

Therefore, to try Hasina for the loss of lives during the student-led protest in Bangladesh last year through ICT is legally questionable. The trial appears to be an exercise in revenge. Those who prosecuted Hasina clearly have an axe to grind. They are also going after secular intellectuals like Shahriar Kabir, who remains incommunicado in detention. Also, Hasina and her then home minister have been charged with superior command responsibility and the deaths of 12 student protesters. But the main witness in the case is Bangladesh's former inspector general of police who is in custody and became state approver.

There is, therefore, much doubt about the whole legal process carried out under the watch of anti-Hasina forces. Dhaka has said it will again seek Hasina's extradition from New Delhi. But the possibility of that happening appears remote. Not only is Hasina not guaranteed a fair trial in Bangladesh, forces dangerously hostile to India, secular Bangladeshis and Bangladeshi Hindus have gained ground in that country. Add to this, threats issued by elements of the interim Bangladeshi regime against security of India's Northeast, and growing collaboration between Bangladeshi and Pakistani security agencies. There is a serious threat of ISI-backed anti-India groups reconstituting in Bangladesh – something Hasina had prevented.

Plus, Hasina's party, Awami League, has been suspended by the current Dhaka dispensation. That means Bangladeshi elections slated for next Feb won't be representative. Mujibur Rahman's secular Bangladesh looks perilously close to sliding into Islamic fundamentalism, and Hasina is the obvious target. Unsurprisingly, the current Dhaka regime is indifferent to India's security concerns. It's prepared to take economic hits just so that it can be nasty to New Delhi. All of this makes Bangladesh India's dangerous eastern flank. Pakistan is already a constant security threat and the addition of Bangladesh makes the job of security agencies all that tougher.

Smoking Gun

All studies show vehicle emissions are strongly tied to mileage, not age. When will law take note?

Nowhere in the democratic world, barring India, are owners forced to scrap old vehicles. Berlin or London, you can drive your car as long as it passes regular fitness tests, which are strict. But in Delhi, your petrol vehicle is legally dead the day it turns 15 – diesels die at age 10. This is the state trying to protect citizens from themselves – from the emissions of their vehicles. Well-intentioned, but without scientific basis.

Now a Delhi Technological University (DTU) study questions the assumed correlation between vehicle age and emissions. It says mileage – kilometres run – affects emissions more: "Mileage is equally important and, in many cases, more reflective of how a vehicle behaves on the road." Why? Because ignition systems, catalytic converters and combustion efficiency degrade with use.

Global energy and infra consultancy Ricardo had earlier shown that even Euro 3 cars, made during 2000-04, had good emissions till a mileage of 100,000km. This year, Polish researchers showed emissions from cars driven 86,000-160,000km were significantly higher than those for low-mileage cars. The takeaway from all rigorous research is that mileage matters more than age.

Given that Delhi govt has challenged the vehicle age-based scrappage policy in SC, these points deserve attention. Indiscriminate – without regard to actual condition – scrapping of vehicles has a huge environmental cost, because making new cars consumes materials and energy. You may recycle the steel and aluminium, but the plastics – dashboards, door panels, etc – can only be 'downcycled'. The electronics – old chips, music systems, etc – are sheer waste, and so are the tyres, batteries, engine fluids.

Above all, mandatory scrapping is an impost on owners. What the state didn't give, it mustn't take away without a compelling reason, which, judging by the evidence, doesn't exist.

Password pickle

Help's on the line but it's unhelpful

Ratna Manucha

'Emails have been hacked all over the world. You need to change your passwords asap!' read the lad's frantic message on WhatsApp. I had just about managed to memorise the password for my email after almost half a dozen years, so I told him that. 'Now tell me the passwords for all your social media accounts – Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram…' Whaaaat?? They all have passwords too?

I haven't a clue as to what they are and now I'm expected to change them, that too when I wasn't the one who had set them up in the first place. Sensing my utter helplessness the lad offered to do it online from his location. 'I'll keep you on call and you follow the steps.' How is that ever going to work? The only steps I can follow are from the cooking channel on YouTube.

'You have to learn sometime. Better now than later,' he muttered and said he'd call that evening to help me change my passwords. Boy, I sure as hell wasn't looking forward to that call. He also gave me some homework. I had to try and remember where I had saved all these passwords. I didn't know where to start, but he told me to try birthdays, anniversary dates for a start, the important days in my life.

Birthdays and anniversaries are too predictable. I'm sure I wouldn't be so foolish. Or would I? I took a deep breath and messaged the lass, asking if she knew any of my passwords. Her reply was instant. 'Why? What happened? What have you done? Has your account been hacked?' I was most offended. Why do the children always think I may have done something? Granted, I may have pressed wrong buttons on my laptop on occasions and inadvertently deleted some important mails, but not on purpose. Never ever on purpose.

What were the important places and dates in my life? Should I try holidays? I love Sundays and I love books but the wretched password always has to be one uppercase, one lowercase, some numbers. In between all these permutations and combinations, the phone rang. Completely forgetting that I wasn't supposed to pick up unlisted numbers I answered it.

The voice on the other end was brusque, 'I have the passwords to all your social media handles including your email ID. You need to listen to me carefully.' I could have hugged him. 'Really? You have all my passwords? Wonderful! Hang on, let me get paper and pen and I'll note them down.' Click. He had hung up. I tried calling him back but he didn't answer. I tried one more time. No response. I wonder why. Silly man.

DHAKA'S WAR WITHIN

Hasina show trial, repression of Awami League & official support for Islamist militia heighten the prospect of civil war in Bangladesh. That and not cosying up to Pak's jihadist general Munir, should be Yunus's priority

Subir Bhaumik

Sheikh Hasina's death sentence will have surprised none. She and her family, her party colleagues and her workers across Bangladesh, her friends and foes at home and abroad – everyone saw this coming.

Nobody expected a fair trial, an adequate opportunity of defence for the deposed leader. Revenge by use of law has become the new normal in post-Hasina Bangladesh and Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has presided over Bangladesh's descent into a vendetta republic.

Tens of thousands of Awami Leaguers, leaders and cadres, are in jail, mostly on trumped-up or very flimsy charges, like social media posts against govt. Bail petitions are not heard for months in lower courts or admitted by high courts. When bail is finally granted, new charges are immediately framed to pave the way for arrest again – as Narayanganj's former mayor Salina Hyat Ivy found out recently.

A garment seller I bought clothes from when in Dhaka told me last week that Hasina will go to jail because she tried to jail Yunus and she will possibly be hanged because senior Jamaat-e-Islami leaders were hanged during her time for war crimes of 1971. "This is Bangladesh," she said.

The International Crimes Tribunal did appoint a defence counsel for Hasina, but the lawyer was also expected to defend former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal. Strangely he did not ask for any adjournments or extensions when he was given just five weeks to peruse the detailed chargesheet against Hasina. Not a single defence witness was produced.

In absentia trials are not uncommon in Bangladesh but Hasina's defence counsel neither had the resources, nor the time or the intent to defend her seriously. And chief prosecutor Tajul Islam was defence counsel for Jamaat-e-Islami leaders when they were tried and convicted in the same tribunal in Hasina's time. So, one is not surprised if he wants to see Hasina hanged.

Fightback her only option | As long as she is in India and New Delhi does not send her back to Dhaka, Hasina cannot be sent to the gallows. So, what are her options now? Her son and adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy made it clear in an interview that Awami League is left with no option but to fight back and bring down the Yunus govt. Since the party has been banned from conducting political activities and since Hasina's death sentence leaves no doubt about the ban continuing, Awami League cannot contest elections.

Street power has often decided the course of Bangladesh politics. But with Yunus govt sure to go for a massive crackdown by using police and an Islamist militia – the latter is being raised under the cover of creating a National Defence Reserve – Awami League may have no option but to take recourse to armed struggle.

Looking back, Awami League was never a revolutionary party opting for armed struggle but one that believed in power through elections. It dutifully participated in elections whenever they were held in military-ruled Pakistan. When Pakistan's military junta refused to honour the verdict of the 1970 elections, in which Awami League secured a clear majority, the League went in for massive street protests after its leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman called for independence. Only when the Pakistan military unleashed a genocide was Awami League forced to go in for armed guerilla warfare with Indian assistance.

By denying Awami League the opportunity to contest polls, Yunus and his cronies may be forcing it to make a determined effort to bring down the interim govt, which has no constitutional basis. If they use weapons to fight off the heavily armed Islamist radicals, Bangladesh may be looking at a civil war of sorts.

India's options | Ever since Yunus assumed power, relations with India have nosedived to an all-time low. While Yunus is upset with India sheltering Hasina, New Delhi is hugely upset with Bangladesh for two reasons.

- One, Islamist radical brass like Ansarullah Bangla chief Jashimuddin Rahmani with declared jihadist agenda against India are let off from prisons, even those who were plotting to bring a huge consignment of weapons for ULFA through the port city of Chittagong in 2004.
- Two, Bangladesh under Yunus seems to be in an overdrive to boost its relations, especially military-to-military ones with Pakistan, whose army chief Gen Asim Munir has already warned India of a "hit in the east" in a future conflict.

Eleven military delegations from Pakistan have so far visited Bangladesh, the latest a naval delegation that's reportedly seeking berthing facilities for Pakistani submarines in Bangladesh's submarine base at Pekua. Another delegation with several known ISI officers is on a 10-day visit to Bangladesh to improve "intelligence sharing" arrangements, obviously with India in mind.

India backed the Bengali armed struggle in 1971 primarily to secure its eastern and northeastern region from Pakistan's two-front covert warfare. If Yunus and his Islamist radical allies like Jamaat-e-Islami (whose emir Muhammad Taher has threatened a jihad with 5mn youth against India) were to provoke India by allowing Pakistan to use its territory for a proxy war, Bangladesh will have to bargain for a strong Indian response spanning economic, military, river water-sharing and the covert domains.

The writer is a former BBC and Reuters correspondent

Why Harvard's In A Spot, And How It Can Get Out

It has cultivated a monoculture, leaving no space for conservatives and their ideas. It must begin by creating conditions for diversity of thought and freedom of speech

Vidyapati Gautam

Harvard has been in a hard place since the Trump administration barred it from hosting foreign students, and paused $2.2bn in research grants for allegedly failing to protect Jews from hate crimes on campus while flouting anti-discrimination laws. White House has also opened investigations into Harvard's govt-funded patents and its ties to China, threatening its accreditation, and demanding records of employees and international students.

While the university may wriggle free by striking a deal, which could be announced soon, how did it land in this spot?

Vanishing diversity | In the most recent faculty survey, only 10% identified themselves as conservative, which is an improvement from 5% in 2024, and 1% in 2022. Only five professors were registered Republican. Since political philosopher Harvey Mansfield retired in 2023, the Government (political science) department has not had a single conservative voice. When asked if Harvard should make a "concerted effort" to hire more conservatives, only 23% agreed.

Although Harvard has proposed establishing a centre modelled after Stanford University's Hoover Institution, a conservative oasis, it won't address the absence of conservatives from the university's everyday functioning.

No free speech | A 2024 internal study revealed rampant self-censorship at Harvard, with only one-third of the graduating class feeling comfortable discussing controversial topics. Remember, how the university axed Subramanian Swamy's courses in 2011 after he wrote an opinion piece protected by the free speech guarantees of the US First Amendment?

In its annual college free speech rankings for 2026, the nonpartisan nonprofit Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE) ranked Harvard 245 out of 257 institutions. Last year, it stood last in 251st position.

Reverse discrimination | In a 2023 judgment, US Supreme Court declared Harvard's race-conscious admission policy (affirmative action) illegal. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 bars organisations taking govt dollars from discriminating "on the grounds of race, colour, or national origin". Regardless, Harvard concealed the admission statistics of its incoming class by altering the formulas it uses to report data, and postponing the release of information on the current admissions cycle.

Lowering the bar | Harvard made SAT scores optional for admissions in response to the Covid pandemic, but then extended this for successive academic years. Some ill-prepared applicants slipped through the cracks. Soon after, the math department offered a remedial course for freshmen who lacked "foundational skills" in high school math. Following an uproar, Harvard reinstated the requirements for the class of 2029 and beyond.

The switch was to promote equity as well. Activists have long condemned the tests for supposedly excluding minorities from academia. However, economist Raj Chetty and others argue tests provide the "fairest admission policy for disadvantaged applicants".

Existential question | There's also the philosophical question about the purpose places like Harvard serve. "Once institutions of cultural formation," writes Patrick Deneen in *Why Liberalism Failed*, "elite universities have become purveyors of liberal anticulture, the deliberate and wholesale disassembly of a broad swath of cultural norms and practices in the name of liberation from the past."

Do they exist to push toxic narratives that revolve around the binaries of oppressor and oppressed based on gender, race, and religion, thereby entrenching permanent victimhood in certain groups and pathological hatred of perceived victimisers? What else sparked celebrations on campuses after Hamas slaughtered 1,200 Israelis on Oct 7, 2023? Why were educators gloating in the wake of the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk?

Trump's demands reflect nothing but his 'art of the deal' big think, going into negotiations with all-out aggressiveness. While Harvard president Alan Garber has rejected his demands, it is concerning that universities are being coerced into adopting a new definition of antisemitism that labels certain criticism of Israel as hate speech, which will further stifle open discourse on campuses. Whatever happened to "f**k your feelings", a jibe conservatives threw at college snowflakes upset by some speech.

For Garber, Harvard could begin by affirming its commitment to open debate by endorsing the Chicago Principles on free speech. It may also weigh going the way of Hillsdale, a private college in Michigan that has consistently refused any state or federal funding because of the strings attached. Harvard can then pursue its pet agendas without political interference. Or it can ensure its "sins are forgiven", as Trump said, by paying $500mn in fines to support workforce development. The parties have already reached an advanced stage of negotiations.

Does Harvard truly believe it can prevail if the matter reaches the apex court? Will the justices let it violate their own earlier order against affirmative action? Garber should seize the opportunity to bring the necessary reforms he desires. Hire more conservative faculty, not to meet Trump's demand, but because all-round intellectual development requires it. Something better may emerge from it, certainly an improvement over the prevailing monoculture.

The writer holds an MPhil in International Politics from JNU

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacredspace

Your duty is to be and not to be this or that. 'I am that I am' sums up the whole truth. The method is summed up in the words 'Be still'. What does stillness mean? It means destroy yourself. Because any form or shape is the cause of trouble.

Ramana Maharshi

The Courage To Begin Anew

Minoru Harada

Life's greatest victories often begin in the heart – with the courage to rise again, to start afresh, and to move forward with hope. Nichiren Buddhism teaches that courage is the starting point of all human transformation. When we choose courage over fear, like a lion king, we change suffering into growth, stagnation into progress, and despair into hope.

As my mentor, Daisaku Ikeda, writes: "Everyone experiences setbacks or failures at some point in life. The risk of failure is part of trying. If you never attempt to do anything, you'll never fail. Should you fall down, the important thing is to summon fresh courage and get right back on your feet again. No matter how many times you may fall, you need to keep pressing forward with an invincible determination. Victory and defeat in life are not decided until the final moment."

Courage is not the absence of fear, but determination to advance despite fear. It is quiet, invincible determination that enables us to take the next step when path ahead seems uncertain. In Buddhist philosophy, courage is synonymous with *fearlessness, vaisharadya* in Sanskrit – an unwavering confidence in the dignity and infinite potential of one's own life. Often, what stops us can be not the size of the obstacle, but a lack of faith in ourselves. When we awaken to the truth that we are scriptwriters of our own story, courage wells forth naturally from within our lives, urging us to act.

The *Lotus Sutra's Parable of the Jewel in the Robe* illustrates this beautifully. A poor man visits a wealthy friend, who sews a priceless jewel into the lining of his guest's robe as he sleeps. Unaware of this treasure, the man wanders for years in hardship. When they meet again, his friend shows him the jewel that had been hidden there all along. The man realises with joy that he had always possessed immense wealth.

This parable reminds us that each of us carries within a priceless jewel – the courage, wisdom, and compassion of Buddhahood. Yet, unaware of it, we often live as though impoverished. The task of life is to awaken to this inner treasure, to recognise that we already have the power to courageously take action at any moment.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Courage does not always have to be dramatic. It is often expressed quietly in our everyday choices – in initiating a heartfelt dialogue, forgiving someone who has hurt us, taking the first step towards a long-cherished dream, or choosing optimism in the face of uncertainty. These simple, human moments are actually acts of great spiritual strength.

To draw once again on Daisaku Ikeda's writings: "...no matter how wonderful our dreams, how noble our ideals, or how high our hopes, ultimately, we need courage to make them a reality. We can come up with the greatest ideas or plans in the world, or be filled with boundless compassion for others, but they will all come to nothing unless we have the courage to put them into action. Without action, it's as if they never existed."

It is vital, therefore, that we summon the courage to begin anew each day – to rise after every fall, to open our hearts again to hope, and to live each moment as proof that courage is the most beautiful expression of human spirit.

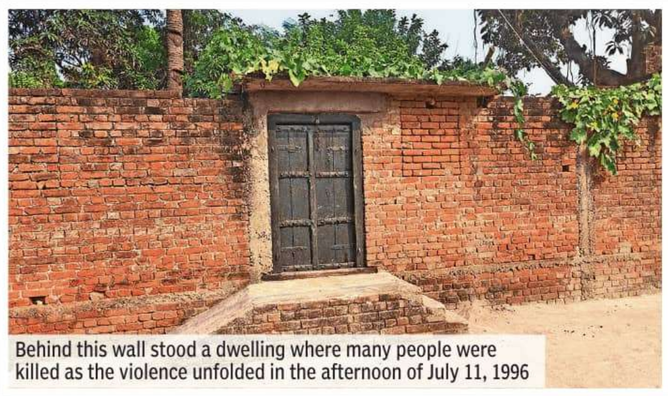
The writer is president, Soka Gakkai, a global Buddhist movement for peace culture, and education

Avijit.Ghosh@timesofindia.com

A massacre, a conviction, an acquittal, and a 30-yr wait for justice

From the blood-soaked fields of 1996 to a courtroom limbo three decades later, Bihar's Bathani Tola's survivors still wait for the verdict that could finally bring them peace

Photos: Avijit Ghosh



Behind this wall stood a dwelling where many people were killed as the violence unfolded in the afternoon of July 11, 1996

Bathani Tola, surrounded by agricultural fields, is a settlement of mainly Dalit, OBC and Muslim families

The sedan snakes through a narrow road off the highway. Lush paddy fields stretch on either side. A late afternoon winter breeze caresses the face. It is almost a picture-postcard setting. But as you enter Bathani Tola, a small memorial reminds you that eyes only provide pictures, not perspective.

Nearly 30 years ago, this is where Ranvir Sena, a banned private army of the upper-caste landed gentry, performed its dance of death. A plaque at the memorial lists the victims. Twenty-one villagers were killed. Most were Dalits. Eight victims were below 10 years of age; two were infants. Sixteen were women. There was only one adult male among the dead. This was a massacre of the innocents.

Since the 1970s, caste-killings were executed with uncomfortable regularity in Bihar. But on July 11, 1996, Bathani Tola became an open-air slaughterhouse. The killers, over 100 in number, didn't operate under the cover of darkness. Most of them didn't bother to conceal their faces. They fired, knifed and hacked in broad daylight for two hours. There were several police outposts nearby, one of them just a kilometre away. The first cops came close to sundown.

'Chased And Gunned Down'

Activist Bela Bhatia provides a vivid account of the massacre in a 2013 EPW article. "The assailants attacked from three sides and from the sound of their shots it was clear that every second they were moving closer... the houses had been on fire for around half an hour when it started pouring. And in the rain, the rampage of killings began."

Kapil Saw (also Sah) survived the macabre afternoon. The sharecropper hid in his uncle's residence. After the killers left, he was among those who took the injured to a hospital in Arrah, roughly 45km away. "The *tola* (settlement) was surrounded from all sides. Houses were set on fire. People were chased and gunned down," Kapil, now 61, recalls. Seated next to him on a platform with a cement roof in the village square, Bhukhan Choudhary says his brother Balchand Chaudhary had pleaded with the assailants to spare him. "But they were ruthless."

Naimuddin lost five members of his family. He hid near an embankment. "When I came to the village, I saw bodies piled on top of each other. I saw my eight-year-old son, Saddam Hussain. *Uski sanse chal rahi thi* (He was still breathing). He opened his eyes and started crying," recalls Naimuddin, who owned a bangle shop then. Saddam, named after the Iraqi leader, was first rushed to the nearby kasbah of Piro and then to the Sadar Hospital in Arrah, the district headquarters. "We reached Patna Medical College Hospital at 1am," remembers the CPIML worker. Saddam died 10 days later.

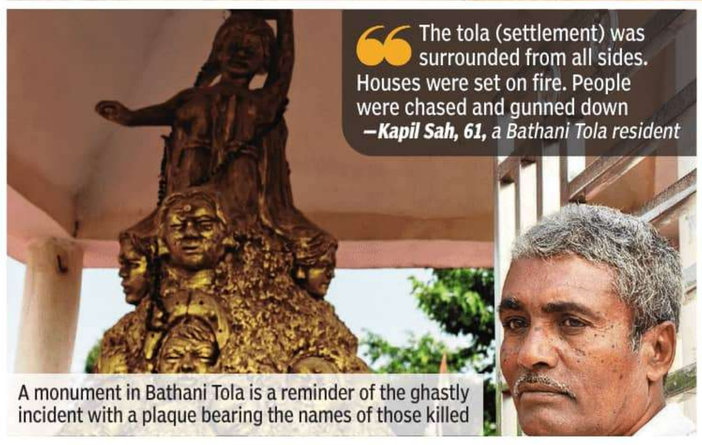
Radhika Devi survived with a bullet injury. She would provide testimony. The survivors, villagers say, remained in trauma for a long time. Many of them left the village, coming back months later.

Writing in EPW in Nov 1996, a few months after the incident, Arvind Sinha and Indu Sinha noted that "the political masters and accomplices of Ranvir Sena in the BJP, the Congress (I) and the Janata Dal effectively managed the local administration in their favour."

Bathani Tola set the template. In the months that followed, caste-based mass killings would rise to nightmarish levels. Lalu Prasad was Bihar's chief minister then.

Violent Class War

Located on the outskirts of Badki Kharaon, a large village, Bathani Tola is a settlement of Dalits, OBCs and Muslims in central Bihar's Bhojpur district. The surrounding farmland is owned mostly by the upper castes. Abusive feudalism was at its peak in these parts. It was a time when labour was bonded, which meant Dalit families were forced to work in the fields of a particular landlord. It was a time when '*gair majarua*' land (govt land, in practice) was summarily claimed and usurped by landlords. It was a time when asking for the minimum wage was seen as rebellious and provocative.



"The tola (settlement) was surrounded from all sides. Houses were set on fire. People were chased and gunned down —**Kapil Sah, 61,** a Bathani Tola resident

A monument in Bathani Tola is a reminder of the ghastly incident with a plaque bearing the names of those killed

Against this backdrop, Naxalism found its feet in various parts of Bihar. "*Mudikatwan se hoshiyar* (Beware of the head chopper)," was a common graffiti on the walls in Arrah. By the mid-1970s, local Red leaders, 'Master' Jagdish and Ram Naresh Ram to name two, had forged deep roots among farm labourers in Bhojpur's Sahar block. The stage was set for a no-holds-barred violent class war, which also became an anti-caste struggle.

The 1996 EPW article said, "In the ensuing battles nearly 200 people lost their lives before the Bathani Tola massacre." Badki Kharaon, of which Bathani Tola was a part, too had seen violence and deaths the same year. Senas (private militias) had existed in Bihar since the 1980s. But the phenomenon found its most organised and dreaded form in Ranvir Sena, which was established in 1994. Ostensibly, an upper caste/class formation designed to stem the rising tide of the Reds, it was actually an attempt to maintain the oppressive and iniquitous socio-economic order.

Bathani Tola had been a frontline site of that conflict since 1988. The struggle wasn't only for better wages; it was a fight for dignity. Kapil, also a CPIML worker, recalls, "We couldn't sit in their (upper caste members') presence. Even in our own homes, we had to stand when they walked in. They would enter without knocking, regardless of the state our women were in." He adds, "The party told us, '*tum aazad desh ke ghulam nagrik ho* (you are slave citizens of a free country)'. They taught us how to fight."

Then And Now

The writ of the landlord doesn't run anymore in Bathani Tola. The older men still work the fields, but the terms of engagement have changed. Villagers say now they can choose their employment. Youngsters travel to cities and work in factories. Srikanta Kumar, whose aunt (father's sister) was among those killed, is one of them. "I work in a factory in Rohtak (Haryana)," he says. Villagers also admit to being better off. Electricity arrived, they say, in 2015. Many homes in Bathani Tola have TVs and motorcycles. Mobile phones are common. Some homes have wi-fi connections. But a general complaint is about the lack of employment opportunities closer to home.

In the past, most dwellings were made of reed and mud. Now, it's mostly pucca houses, albeit without the coat of plaster. Some are half-completed. "That's because", Kapil explains, "people go to cities, make some money and then build one room. Completing a house takes years, depending on how much you earn every season."

The settlement is a CPIML stronghold, though one could see BJP posters. Bathani Tola is part of the Tarari assembly seat. CPIML's Sudama Prasad was elected in 2015 and 2020. Sudama, who helped construct the memorial, became the Arrah Lok Sabha MP in 2024. The assembly seat was wrested by BJP in bypolls and retained in the 2025 state elections. CPIML worker Kapil alleges, "The forces of feudalism have been empowered. Police don't listen to our cases."

Wait For Justice

In May 2010, about 14 years after the massacre, the Arrah sessions court convicted 23 of the 68 accused. Three received capital punishment and 20 life in jail. But in 2012, Patna high court overturned the judgment, acquitting all. The testimony of Radhika Devi was also ignored.

"In rejecting her testimony, the high court ignored the settled law, which deemed that a witness injured in such an incident came with a 'built-in guarantee' of her presence at the crime scene and was "unlikely to spare" her actual assailants in order to frame others," says Manoj Mitta, whose book, Caste Pride, extensively explores cases of caste atrocities.

Mitta says that in order to discard the testimonies of the male witnesses, the high court said, "People who were intent to liquidate everybody... would have searched for male members who were all hiding in very close proximity to the village itself." It found their very survival "unnatural" and, therefore, "the identifications made by the prosecution witnesses not worthy of reliance".

TOI | MAY 31, 2012

300 intellectuals seek justice for victims of Bihar massacre

A report on a letter by notable persons to the then CJI after the acquittal of all the Bathani Tola accused by Patna HC

The judgment created a furore. Over 300 intellectuals, including Noam Chomsky and Tariq Ali, sent a memorandum to the Chief Justice of India. "The fact that 16 years after this massacre not a single person stands convicted for the brutal and barbaric slaughter of innocents, raises disturbing questions about whether the oppressed and poor victims can expect justice in our courts," the petition said.

A few weeks after the acquittal, Brahmeshwar Singh, founder of Ranvir Sena, was gunned down. The Sena has since faded into insignificance. But the case has been pending in Supreme Court since 2012. "Such delays make a mockery of the special law enacted by Parliament to handle caste atrocities with due urgency," Mitta says.

Naimuddin, who now lives in Arrah, wants justice. "*Isi umeed se jee raha hoon* (I live only in this hope)," he says.

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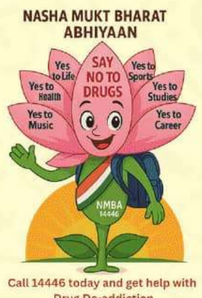

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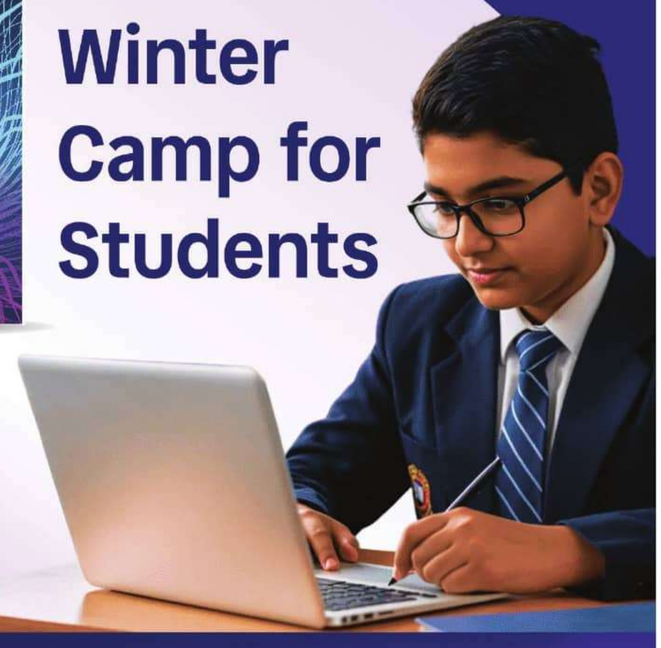

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SCAN TO REGISTER

GALLERY

Anuya, Pranjali seal gold, silver at Deaflympics

Young Anuya Prasad gave herself a birthday present while Pranjali Prashant Dhumal added to India's joy as the duo completed a 1-2 finish in the women's 10m air pistol event at the Deaflympics in Tokyo.

Sinner hails ATP Finals triumph over Alcaraz: Jannik Sinner ended a turbulent season on a high, beating Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (7/4), 7-5 in Turin to retain the ATP Finals title after a landmark, history-making year. "It's (an) amazing season," Sinner said.

Greco, Paralympics gold medalist, dies at 28: Australian cyclist Paige Greco, a Paralympic gold medalist, has died. She was 28. Australian cycling federation said that Greco "passed away in her Adelaide home after experiencing a sudden medical episode" on Sunday.

'Lakers contacted in gambling probe': The Los Angeles Lakers are one of multiple NBA teams that have been asked to surrender "documents and records" as part of an ongoing investigation into illegal gambling operations, The Athletic and ESPN reported.

Ella Hakkinen, 14, joins McLaren programme: F1 champions McLaren have added Ella Hakkinen, 14-year-old daughter of Finland's double world champion Mika, to their Driver Development Programme along with Brit teen Ella Stevens. AGENCIES

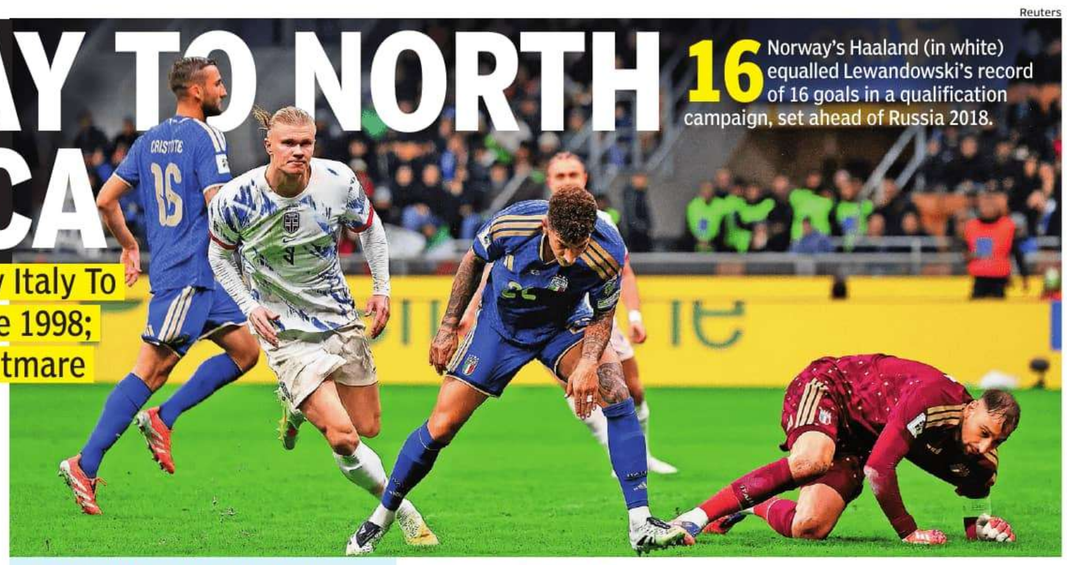
ACTION TODAY

BOXING: World Cup, 1 pm (Eurosport); **CRICKET:** Asia Cup Rising Stars, India A vs Oman, 8 pm (Sony); Ranji Trophy, 9.30 am (Star, JioHotstar); **FOOTBALL:** Asia Cup Qualifiers, B'desh vs India, 9 pm (Fancode); European WC Qualifiers, Spain vs Turkiye; Sweden vs Slovenia, 1.15 am Wednesday (Sony)

NORWAY TO NORTH AMERICA

Haaland & Co. Thump Sorry Italy To Reach First World Cup Since 1998; Azzurri Now In Playoff Nightmare

Reuters



16 Norway's Haaland (in white) equalled Lewandowski's record of 16 goals in a qualification campaign, set ahead of Russia 2018.

Milan: Norway qualified for their first World Cup since 1998 after Erling Haaland struck again in a 4-1 thumping of Italy on Sunday which sealed a spot in next summer's finals in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Haaland scored the decisive brace in the space of seconds at a soaking San Siro for Norway, who completed Group I with a perfect 24 points from their eight qualifying matches. Norway would have had to lose by nine goals or more in order to be overtaken by Italy for the group's only automatic place for next summer's finals in North America, but Stale Solbakken's side ended their campaign in glorious fashion in front of 70,000 people.

However, Solbakken was coy as to his powerful team's chances now that a 28-year weight has come to an end. "Let's see the draw first... I haven't even thought about it. For me, it (tonight) was to go from 99 percent to 100 percent and now we have done it in a great way," Solbakken told reporters.

Haaland's father Alf-Inge was still an international player when Norway last competed in the World Cup 27 years ago, a tournament won by a Zidane-inspired France.

"I'D BE A LIAR TO SAY THAT IT DOESN'T CONCERN ME, BECAUSE WHEN YOU HAVE NIGHTS LIKE THIS IT'S MUCH EASIER IF YOU CAN STAY TOGETHER. WHAT WORRIES ME NOW IS THAT WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER IN THREE MONTHS' TIME."
— Gennaro Gattuso, ITALY COACH

Coach Gennaro Gattuso apologised to fans and was clearly concerned about the second-half collapse. Four years ago, Italy again finished second in their qualifying group, behind Switzerland, and found themselves in the playoffs. Drawn against unfancied North Macedonia in the semifinals, they were eliminated when Aleksandar Trajkovski struck deep into stoppage time. In 2018, Italy finished second in their qualifying group behind Spain and were forced into the playoffs, where a 1–0 aggregate defeat to Sweden ended their hopes. AFP

KANE REVEALS PERFECT ENGLAND'S NFL PLAYBOOK

Tirana: England wrapped up their flawless World Cup qualifying campaign with a record-setting 2-0 win against Albania. The Three Lions became the first European team to win every one of their World Cup qualifiers without conceding a single goal in a campaign lasting at least six matches.

ROAD TO WORLD CUP

England captain Harry Kane talked about Tuchel's desire to establish an NFL set-piece playbook. Kane, a noted fan of American football, said England will go to the World Cup with a list of dead-ball routines that can take advantage of defensive weaknesses. "I think it is massive," Kane said. "You want to have an NFL playbook in a way, where you look at the opposition and see if they are zonal or man-mark. The best team at set-plays normally go on to be the best team in the tournament."

Nigeria blame Congo 'voodoo' Nigeria's football coach has accused the Democratic Republic of Congo of practising "voodoo" after his squad's hopes ended in a penalty shootout loss in the African playoffs final. Coach Eric Chelle said a member of the DR Congo team "did some voodoo, every time, every time". He said he saw a DR Congo member waving his hand as if sprinkling, shaking something. AFP

Security bubble for India ahead of Bangla clash

Marcus.Mergulhao@timesofindia.com

India's AFC Asian Cup 2027 final round qualifier against Bangladesh at the National Stadium in Dhaka on Tuesday is being played in the middle of ongoing tensions between the two neighbouring countries.

Since their arrival in Dhaka on Saturday, the Indian team has been in a security bubble with limited movement from hotel to the Armed Police Battalion Ground for training and the National Stadium for an official session on Monday. "There are police forces outside the hotel at all times," a team source told **TOI**. "Police vehicles and a motorcade escort the team bus. Even for today's training session, there were more than usual security personnel."

Officials said there is a real buzz in the Bangladesh capital as the teams face each other for the first time in 22 years. Tickets were sold out in a matter of minutes, and a capacity crowd of more than 22,000 is expected.

Having been knocked out of the qualifiers with two games left, coach Khalid Jamil could now experiment with his own choice of players. "The new players know the importance of this game," Jamil said.

'Pace will take Mahida a long way'

▶ Continued from P 1

The right-arm pace bowler began playing cricket at age nine with his father egging him on.

"He is very fond of cricket so he encouraged me to play and admitted me to Hind Vijay Gymkhana. I took to fast bowling in the initial few weeks and never looked back. Soon I was picked for inter-club tournaments and was later selected for the Baroda U-16 squad in 2022," Mahida said. He played the Vijay Merchant Trophy and in 2024 bowled in the U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy where he picked up 16 wickets in five matches.

Injuries kept him out of action a couple of times over the last two years, but he bounced back. Earlier this month, Mahida played in the U-19 One Day Challenger Trophy at Hyderabad. "This is my first international tournament, but I am not nervous. My aim is to help my team win," he said.

Motibaug Cricket Club coach, Digvijay Rathwa, who trained Mahida, said, "I still remember his bowling spell of seven overs against the Reliance team that changed the entire game in the HD Zaveri League last year. Mahida bagged four wickets in his spell and led the Motibaug team to victory. He is the kind of bowler who likes to strike fear in the hearts of batsmen through pace. He will go a long way."

The youth triangular series, which began at the BCCI Centre of Excellence on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Monday, is being played in a double round-robin format, with each team scheduled to play four matches. The top two teams will feature in the final on Nov 30. The tournament is seen as a preparation for the ICC U-19 World Cup to be held in Zimbabwe and Namibia in Jan-Feb next year.

Gurpreet fetches silver as India finish third

Cairo: Olympian Gurpreet Singh came agonisingly close to becoming the world champion in men's 25m centre fire pistol event but eventually got a silver after losing on inner 10s to Ukraine's Pavlo Korostylov at the Shooting World Championships. India ended campaign in third place with total of 13 medals. PTI

Arjun is fast but Chinese rival forces quick draw

Yi Holds Indian In 31-Move Contest; Yakubboev Strikes

Pix: FIDE

Amit.Karmarkar@timesofindia.com

Panaji: If chess games were won just by the time in hand, Erigaisi Arjun probably would have clinched the World Cup title by now. The second seed Indian is so well prepared for this event that he invariably saves far more time on the clock than his opponents in standard time control.

Monday was no different but with pieces getting exchanged regularly, Arjun's first game in the World Cup quarterfinal against No. 7 seed Wei Yi of China ended in a draw with only rook and three pawns each remaining on the board.

FIDE WORLD CUP GOA 2025

The 31-move contest, played in Kholmov variation in Spanish Opening (a sub-line in Morphy Defense, Keres variation) got over in less than an hour with the Indian spending about 10 minutes for all his moves and the Chinese close to 50. But Yi was well prepared too and was not in serious trouble at any point.

Nordirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan was the only player to win on the day in the Alekhine Anti-Grunfeld variation of Kings Indian Defense. He squeezed the opening advantage against Germany's Alexander Donchenko. Though there were many pieces on the board, Yakubboev handled the complexities well – co-ordinated his pieces far better than his opponent, marched a pawn to go piece up and then won with a tactical shot after 44 moves.

His compatriot Javokhir Sindarov was slightly better against Mexico's Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara but could get only a draw with white pieces. The computer gave +1 to him at some point and he should have played a human move (knight takes free pawn in the h-file) on the 34th turn. But the pressing continuation was too AI-ish, which means Sindarov won't enjoy the cushion of lead while playing with black pieces in the return game.

Russian Andrey Esipenko, who had minor tempo with black pieces against American Sam Shankland was careful enough not to go overboard and split a point.

Shankland backs KO format

Amit.Karmarkar@timesofindia.com

Panaji: Sam Shankland wants to excel in classical chess which he considers as his strongest suit. And though there have been some big upsets in the knockout format of the ongoing World Cup and some crucial matches were decided by tiebreaks of shorter time control, the US Grandmaster backs the knockout format.

"I am not saying this because I have done well so far in this World Cup," said Shankland after upsetting Daniil Dubov of Russia, former second of world champion Magnus Carlsen in the pre-quarterfinals on Sunday. "I have not done too well in previous knockout World Cups so I know. Most of the sports, including the biggest of them all — tennis, are played via the knockout format at all levels.

"Chess should try to have knockouts far more frequently that will automatically solve the problem of (boring) draws."

No. 46 seed Shankland (2649) who had a peak Elo rating of 2739 before the Covid pandemic, is not the only underdog story in the tournament after shock wins over Vidit Gujrathi, Richard Rapport and Dubov. No. 57 seed Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara of Mexico (2644) also benefited from the KO format, ousting Nodirbek Abdusattorov and P Harikrishna on the way to the quarters.

Former World Championship challenger Peter Leko bats for those players who are trying to reach a level where they can bang on the elite door. "We must give them a passage to play against strong opponents more frequently. That gives them motivation to work."

TIMES NATION

3 generations wiped out as 18 of family die in Medina bus blaze

A House That Was Never Quiet Has Fallen Silent, Say Neighbours

Amisha.Rajani
@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: A gate that once clanged with schoolbags, laughter, and late-night packing lists now sits bolted and cold. The hum has dimmed from a familiar address in Hyderabad's Vidyanagar. Rooms that held three generations of the Shaik family remain frozen in the half-light of a journey they never completed. A home overflowing with voices last week is a stunned shell this Monday.

Thousands of miles away in Saudi Arabia, 18 members of the extended family — 11 who lived in the three-storey home and seven visiting relatives — perished in a bus fire en route to Medina, erasing an entire branch of the Shaiks in moments.

Only one immediate member survives: Siraj Shaik, who lives in the US and is now left to shoulder a loss that defies comprehension

They had left Hyderabad on Nov 9, headed by patriarch Naseeruddin Shaik, 70, a retired railway employee. Alongside him were his wife Akhtar Begum, 62; their son Salahuddin Shaik, 42; daughters Ameena Begum, 44; Shabana Begum, 40; Rizwana Begum, 38; daughters-in-law Farhana Sultana, 37, and Sana Sultana, 35; and ten grandchildren — Anees Fathima, 25; Zainuddin Shaik, 12; Rida Tazeen, 10; Mehrish Fatima, 10; Mariyam Fatima, 7; Umaiza Fatima, 5; Tasmia Tahreen, 3; Huzaifa Jaffar Syed, 3; Uzairuddin Shaik, 3; and Mohammad Shazain Ahmed, 2.

"The entire family was so happy," Farhana's brother Rashid said. "I spoke to Salahuddin on Sunday. They were on their way to Medina and were supposed to reach by Monday evening. We even went to drop them at the airport. And then suddenly, we got a call saying the accident happened." His words faltered, swallowed by grief.

Vidyanagar's lane drifted through the day in disbelief.

Neighbours remembered the Shaik home as a constant chorus — children tumbling down steps, elders chatting at the gate, relatives dropping by almost daily. "It was never quiet there," said neighbour Mohammad Kadiruddin. "Six children lived in that house. They would run around, laugh, shout, greet everyone. The adults were very warm too. It's impossible to believe the house is empty now."

Only one immediate member survives: Naseeruddin's son Siraj Shaik, who lives in the US and is now left to shoulder a loss that defies comprehension. The husbands of Ameena, Shabana, and Rizwana — living in Ram Nagar, Asif Nagar, and elsewhere in the city — received the early-morning calls that upended their lives.

The Shaiks had been part of Vidyanagar's fabric for nearly a decade, settling there after Naseeruddin's retirement. "Salahuddin was like my own brother," said Imran Sharif, a close friend. "He ran a logistics business. Now we're coordinating with the Haj committee and authorities to see whether some relatives can travel for the funeral or if the bodies will be brought home."

Behind the locked gate remain half-folded clothes, untouched prayer books, and a home paused mid-preparation — a family that set out together, hopeful, unaware that this would be their final journey.

AFP

Family members in Hyderabad mourn deaths of their relatives in the Saudi bus fire

He jumped out of burning bus, but lost 3 members of his family

Sunny.Baski@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Until Sunday evening, 23-year-old Mohammed Shoeb posted updates on his social media handle, sharing his pilgrimage (Umrah) journey with friends and family. He was travelling with his parents and grandfather.

On Monday morning, the page fell silent. While all three family members were lost in the deadly accident in Saudi Arabia, Shoeb, sitting next to the driver, managed to escape through a window along with the driver. He was rushed to the Saudi German Hospital and was undergoing treatment in the ICU.

Shoeb's elder brother, Mohammed Sameer (29), is now watching him battle for life in a foreign ICU. Speaking to **TOI** from Saudi Arabia, Sameer said the only reason he was alive was a delay in processing his visa. A last-minute hold-up forced him to postpone his Umrah trip by three days, a delay that kept him off the bus, killing his parents and his grandfather Mohammed Maulana, and injuring his younger sibling.

Shoeb's last social media post, just hours before the tragedy, shows him recording the road ahead from his seat next to the driver

"Shoeb is doing better physically, but he's traumatised. He told me he saw our parents being charred to death right in front of him. The bus became a ball of fire... he could do nothing," he said.

Shoeb's social media page was filled with cheerful updates from his pilgrimage, including snapshots from Mecca, videos from holy sites, and selfies with fellow pilgrims. His last story, posted just hours before the tragedy, shows him recording the road ahead from his seat next to the driver. The bus accident killed 45 pilgrims, including Shoeb's parents, Mohammed Abdul Khadeer and Ghousiya Begum, and his grandfather Mohammed Maulana.

Shoeb, who works with an interior designing firm in Hyderabad and is a fitness enthusiast, now lies in hospital with bandages covering his burn injuries. Back in the city, neighbours and relatives are still struggling to come to terms with the tragedy. Their home in Natraj Nagar remains locked.

Farewell turns final: Hyd man loses 5 members of his family

Hyderabad: A wave. A hug. A promise to video-call from Medina. For Rizwan Ahmed, Sunday evening's farewell at Hyderabad airport felt routine — his mother, brother, sister-in-law, and two nephews boarding a flight for Umrah. Within 24 hours, that goodbye became irrevocable. All five died in a bus that caught fire near Medina, leaving Rizwan and his father as the only survivors of a once-bustling household in Hyderabad, reports **Amisha Rajani**.

"My brother worked in Saudi Arabia... He flew home Friday only to take my mother, his wife, and the kids back with him," Rizwan said. His father had stayed behind as he had already performed Umrah several times. Now, the family is scrambling for clarity. "We are running from one office to another, trying to understand what happens next," a relative said.

Groom-to-be among 6 from family killed in bus tragedy

Hyderabad: Wedding cards were weeks away. A date was about to be fixed by a family in Natraj Nagar. Then came a phone call from Saudi Arabia — and joy gave way to wails that spread through Tappachabutra road by dawn. Mohammed Sohail, preparing for marriage after his return from Umrah, was among six relatives killed in a bus fire.

His grandfather Mohammed Mahmood Miyan, 80, could barely speak. "Before he left, we had a small send-off ceremony. We told him that once he returned, we would fix a date for the wedding. It was his and his father's first time going for Haj and they were looking forward to it."

Sohail had set out with Mastan Mohammed, 55; uncle Mohammed Ali, 54; aunt Shehnaaz Begum, 41; and Shehnaaz's sisters Parveen Begum, 35, and Zakiya Begum, 47. TNN

T'gana govt to send team to Saudi to coordinate relief

▶ Continued from P1

It is unclear if the tanker hit the vehicle while it was moving or was stationary."

Sameer and his family landed in Jeddah three days after the rest of the pilgrims and are yet to finish their Mecca rituals. PM Modi condoled the deaths in a post on X. "Deeply saddened by the accident in Medinah involving Indian nationals. My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones. I pray for the swift recovery of all those injured. Our embassy in Riyadh and consulate in Jeddah are providing all possible assistance," he wrote.

Telangana govt has decided to depute a team, led by its minorities welfare minister Mohammad Azharuddin, to Saudi Arabia to coordinate relief efforts. Announcing ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the kin of those who died, the govt said it would help arrange the funerals of the deceased in Saudi in accordance with traditions. Two members of each affected family would be flown to Saudi, it said. "The bodies were charred beyond recognition. DNA tests are also likely to be conducted to identify the victims," said Azharuddin, adding a control room had been set up at Haj House (numbers 79979 59754/99129 19545) to provide more information to families of victims. The minister reaffirmed the state govt, in coordination with the foreign ministry and Saudi authorities, was making all possible efforts to provide assistance, guidance, and necessary support to the families. Police and govt officials, who are in contact with authorities in Saudi, said the Al-Makkah Travels-owned bus was about 25km short of its destination when the fatal crash occurred.

PTI

AIMIM MLA Kausar Mohiuddin consoles a man who lost his family members in the tragedy

Saudi authorities have started investigating the circumstances that led to the accident. In a 2023 report, the UN pointed out that Saudi had a high road fatality rate compared to other high-income countries. Transporting worshippers around Saudi's holy sites has frequently proven dangerous, particularly during Haj, when roads can be chaotic with buses creating interminable traffic jams, sources said.

HIGH ROAD FATALITY RATE

- Saudi Arabia retains a high road fatality rate compared to other high-income countries
- Ferrying worshippers around Saudi Arabia's holy sites has proven dangerous, particularly during the hajj, when roads can be jampacked
- Millions also visit Saudi Arabia for the umrah pilgrimage, which happens outside of the hajj period

20 people were killed in March 2023 when a bus ferrying pilgrims to Mecca burst into flames after a collision on a bridge

35 foreigners were killed when a bus hit a heavy vehicle near Medina in 2019

Source: PTI

A view of the highway leading from Mecca to Medina

TIMES SPORT

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025

AUSTRALIA'S PAT CUMMINS NAMED SUNRISERS CAPTAIN FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE IPL SEASON

SANGAKKARA REAPPOINTED HEAD COACH OF RAJASTHAN ROYALS, TAKES OVER FROM DRAVID

DECODING GAMBHIR'S TEST REPORT CARD

While He Has Been Spot-On In Limited-Overs Formats, The Head Coach's Red-Ball Stint Has Been Marked By A Stubborn Preference For Underprepared Tracks, Which Have Put India's Batters At A Disadvantage. The Constant Chopping & Changing Also Seems To Have Led To Declining Results

INDIA'S TEST RESULTS UNDER HEAD COACH GAUTAM GAMBHIR

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Winning %
Overall	18	7	9	2	38.89
At home	8	4	4	0	50
Overseas	10	3	5	2	30

SERIES BY SERIES PERFORMANCE

Series	Opponent	Venue	Mt	Result
2024-25	Bangladesh	India	2	India won 2-0
2024-25	New Zealand	India	3	India lost 0-3
2024-25	Australia	Australia	5	India lost 1-3
2025	England	England	5	Drawn 2-2
2025-26	West Indies	India	2	India won 2-0
2025-26	South Africa	India	2	South Africa lead 1-0*

(*ongoing 2-Test series) —**Stats:** Rajesh Kumar

HOW LONG DID THE HOME TESTS WHICH INDIA HAVE LOST SINCE GAMBHIR TOOK OVER LAST?

Opponent	Venue	Result	Duration
New Zealand	Bengaluru	Lost by 8 wkts	4 days (first day's play washed out)
New Zealand	Pune	Lost by 113 runs	3 days
New Zealand	Mumbai (WS)	25 runs	3 days
South Africa	Kolkata	30 runs	3 days

* (The NZ series was the first instance of India being whitewashed in a home Test series of three or more matches)

INDIA'S DECLINING RETURNS AGAINST SPIN AT HOME

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesofindia.com

Gautam Gambhir gives results, that's why he is India's coach." That's the reply you'll get if you raise the burning question in the top echelons of the BCCI. The common refrain that Gambhir gives results is, however, only the partial truth.

Gambhir, during the course of his one-and-a-half year reign in Indian cricket as head coach, has won an ICC Champions Trophy in extremely helpful conditions in Dubai and an Asia Cup at the same venue against sub-par teams, triggering euphoria among fams.

Come to the real thing, however — Test cricket — and his stint has been nothing short of a train wreck. India were brilliantly placed on the last World Test Championship (WTC) ladder in 2024 and a spot in the final was a foregone conclusion when he took charge. In four months' time, the dream was over, with the team losing six Tests matches — three at home to New Zealand and three to Australia away.

Come the new cycle, the team didn't have to deal with superstar seniors because both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli had retired from Tests. But India have already lost three Tests out of the eight that they have played, and are now sitting fourth on the WTC table.

After the second Test against South Africa in Guwahati, India only have two away tours to New Zealand and Sri Lanka, followed by five Tests against Australia at home in the beginning of 2027. The road to the final is looking tricky, to say the least, and Gambhir simply cannot avoid the blame.

The first point that has put Gambhir's role under the scanner is his choice of surfaces when playing Tests in India. "This was exactly the pitch that we wanted," Gambhir said after India's humbling defeat at Eden Gardens on Sunday in a game that got over in two and a half days, again.

But Gambhir is bullish. He chose similar surfaces for the New Zealand series last year, ending in India being whitewashed at home.

In another day and age, that would have been enough to raise serious questions about his red-ball coaching credentials, but perhaps BCCI knows the storm will blow over with a quick interlude of white-ball success.

The likes of Sourav Ganguly, Harbhajan Singh, Ravichandran Ashwin and Cheteshwar Pujara, among others, have cried themselves hoarse about the stubborn preference for underprepared tracks, saying that playing on such surfaces don't help India at all and rather has the opposite effect. Ashwin had recently asked: "A traditional Indian turner is where both the edges of the bat are challenged and there is preferably some bounce. Why aren't we playing on such tracks?"

Referring to India's two recent wins in England, WV Raman, India's former women's team coach, told TOI, "When you provide the sort of pitch that was dished out at the Eden, you are bringing opposition spinners into play. India's bowling attack has a lot more control but on such pitches, the superior skill is almost negated. If India were playing the long game, the spinners would have had a much better chance to win the game for us while the batters would have enjoyed their time in the middle."

Gambhir's argument is that he wants to take the toss out of the equation by playing on pitches like these. But that's exactly what is not happening — of the four Test losses at home in the last one year, India have lost the toss thrice and have been made to bat second. Bowlers like Mitchell Santner, Ajaz Patel, Simon Harmer and Keshav Maharaj — who might have struggled to find a place in some of the top Ranji Trophy teams — have at times looked unplayable, making lives miserable for Indian batters.

Constant chopping and changing

While the choice of tracks has been widely criticized, the second point that has come up for some serious debate is Gambhir's choice of playing XI. The coach, riding the crest of white-ball success that he has had in IPL and international circuit, has tried to bring in the 'horses-for-courses' policy in Test cricket too.

This has led to constant chopping and changing. The No. 3 spot has become a game of musical chairs. Since the former Delhi cricketer has taken over, we've seen Shubman Gill, Devdutt Padikkal, KL Rahul, Karun Nair, Sai Sudharshan and Washington Sundar taking turns to bat in a spot that is meant for specialists. With extreme impatience calling the shots, none of the players are getting any time to get settled, and that's not exactly working wonders.

"It is not always about skill, which all the players you're mentioning have. It is about temperament. A specialist in a spot like that has the temperament to bat longer and concentrate harder, something that a player who is not used to it, may lack. In white-ball it's a shorter game, so time is not a big enough variable, unlike Test cricket," Raman, who once worked with Gambhir as his personal coach, said.

The former India batter added that if Gambhir believes Washington is his man for the No. 3 slot, he should be allowed to settle in. "I know Washy, he is a very capable bat up the order. If you see the potential, let him develop, don't change his slot right away in the next game. That can lead to confusion," Raman said, adding that six bowling options is an unnecessary luxury on tracks as treacherous as Eden's.

"Play five bowlers and add an extra specialist batter, that's good enough," the senior coach suggested.

It's anyone's guess, however, whether Gambhir can be persuaded to alter his plans.

"They have completely destroyed Test cricket. Rest in peace, Test cricket. The kind of work they have done, the kind of pitches that have been made for so many years now, you can see it . No one talks about it because it is fine, the team is winning, someone is taking wickets, someone is becoming great by taking those wickets. So everyone feels everything is going well. But I feel that this practice has not started today. It has been going on for many, many years, and it is the wrong way of playing cricket. You are not moving forward in any way, you are just going around in circles like an ox tied to a mill. As a cricketer, you are not growing."
—Harbhajan Singh

"It's simple. In a total of 16 batters, only three to four players have defended well. If you want to play on turning tracks, your game against spin has to be good, otherwise don't play on such pitches. Most western teams are better than India now at playing spin because they come to India, they practice here a lot more but we ourselves don't practice enough. But we are superior players of fast bowling in many other venues right now because we consider that as a challenge, but not this. That is the difference."
—Ravichandran Ashwin

"If you'd played the same match on a good wicket, there were much better chances of winning. How do you define Test cricket? On what kind of a wicket are your chances better of winning? On such tracks, your chances decrease and the opposition is at par with you. There's so much talent in India, even an India 'A' side could beat South Africa. So if you say this loss is because of transition, it's not acceptable."
—Cheteshwar Pujara

"When you provide the sort of pitch that was dished out at the Eden, you are bringing opposition spinners into play. India's attack has a lot more control but on such pitches, the superior skill is negated. If India were playing the long game, the spinners would have had a better chance to win you the game while batters would have enjoyed their time."
—WV Raman

Indian batters lost the game of patience, unlike Bavuma

Saibal.Bose
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Temba Bavuma wishes that some day, he will get to play on the fifth day of a Test match in India. However, if someone can jog the South African skipper's memory, Bavuma might just recollect that the first two Tests he played in India — in New Delhi in 2015 and Vizag in 2019 — both went into the fifth day. South Africa lost those two. The two that followed in the 2019 series saw them lose inside four days. Now, of course, comes the Eden Gardens stunner, which finished inside three days, with Bavuma leading the side to a historic win.

Simon Harmer, the 36-year-old off-spinner who had played just 12 Tests since his debut in 2015 till the Eden game, might have been the architect of this win with eight wickets in this match, but it was Bavuma who actually set it all up with a remarkable innings that was like a masterclass in how to play on a turner. "It wasn't a wicket you couldn't bat on," India coach Gautam Gambhir would say later. "Bavuma showed how to do it."

So, what was the difference between him and the others, given that the Indian batters have grown up on wickets that provide turn? Perhaps it boils down to patience and application. Bavuma stressed that his strength was his defence. That would mean waiting for the right ball to hit. With less than seven sessions into the game, Bavuma knew he had no need to hurry, in contrast to the Indian batters, who seemed to be in a rush to finish things off.

Dhruv Jurel was brilliant in the run-up to this game, scoring two centuries in the 'A' game in Bengaluru. He barged into the team riding his form. But when it mattered most, his performance left a lot to be desired. If he could be excused for being beaten in flight in the first innings, his dismissal in the second innings came about because of lack of patience.

"Sometimes you get frustrated when runs are not coming," South Africa coach Shukri Conrad said. "Bavuma doesn't always mind these frustrations," he chuckled.

Jurel perhaps did and his 13 off 33 balls could have been playing on his mind when he saw an opportunity to add a few more. Even Rishabh Pant, an extremely talented batter, does not believe in sticking around. An excellent defensive block off Harmer was followed by an attempt to swat the ball away, only to misjudge the flight. With Shubman Gill out injured and KL Rahul back in the hut with almost nothing on the board, someone had to stay put with Washington Sundar. The latter's credentials in Test cricket are yet to be firmed up and he would have benefitted by having Pant at the other end.

Talking about the conditions, the Eden track left a lot to be wanted. Almost everyone who played on it spoke of the uneven bounce. Harmer even referred to the inconsistent turn, even though he seemed to benefit from it the most.

Although Gambhir said this was just the kind of pitch they wanted, very few were actually happy with it. The wicket hadn't been watered for four days, allegedly on the Indian team's insistence. Tiny clouds of dust late on the second day every time the ball landed showed it was breaking up faster than presumed.

Gill neck injury more serious than it appears?

Skipper Discharged From Hospital But Advised Not To Fly Out Immediately; Unlikely For Second Test

Saibal.Bose@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Early indications are there could be a deeper issue with Shubman Gill's neck injury. The skipper had to leave the ground holding the nape of his neck after playing just three balls in India's first innings. The trigger was a sweep shot which went to the fence and the cause was apparently a muscle spasm that he woke up with. "A bad night's sleep," was ow bowling coach Morne Morkel put it then. Taken to a hospital for scans, Gill landed up spending one night in the ICU, ostensibly to remain under observation.

Although he was discharged late on Sunday, according to sources he is all but ruled out of the second Test in Guwahati, which starts on Saturday. Sources added that he has been advised not to fly out immediately.

The sources hinted at an injury in the neck — and not just a spasm — which he might have been carrying for some time. The sudden movement of the neck during that sweep could have exacerbated the problem. "The seriousness of the injury is not yet known," the source said. "The doctors are assessing it." Whether this means long-term management of an old injury can only be confirmed once the doctors get all the reports.

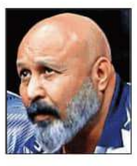
There has been no official word from the BCCI. Gill, one of the few players in the world to continue playing in all the three formats, has been among the busiest cricketers in recent times. Although he himself has iterated that physically he feels perfectly fine, it is the mental aspect that needs to be dealt with.

"Travelling to various countries and playing in different formats within a turnover of 4-5 days isn't easy," he had said before the Eden Gardens Test. "There is obviously the jet lag that has to be dealt with." While calling it a good challenge, he had admitted that he had to figure out how to manage the workload.

Coaches Morkel and Ryan ten Doschate too have accepted that being an all-format player is not easy. "Shubman is doing a pretty good job at it, but it is definitely not easy," ten Doeschate had said.

India's male boxers face challenges of transition

Sabi.Hussain@timesofindia.com



Greater Noida: India's men's boxing team is going through a transitional phase with some veteran boxers making way for a younger lot to carry forward the previous gains.

Since the Paris Olympics 2024, the team's results have been mixed, at times underwhelming. The sport's new global governing body, World Boxing, launched a series of World Cups in different continents in 2025, where Indian male pugilists came up with decent performances. But it was the disappointing show at the Liverpool World Championships, which exposed their frailties. The drew a blank there. Out of the 10 boxers, only two — Jadumani Singh (50kg) and Abhinash Jamwal (65kg) – reached the quarterfinals.

While the ongoing World Boxing Cup (WBC) Finals here is proving to be richly rewarding for the hosts with several boxers ensuring their places in the semifinals, it's the forthcoming tough season next year with Commonwealth (CWG) and Asian Games lined up that has made the boxing administrators and coaches focus more on the male boxers.

"We admit that the World Championships in Liverpool was disappointing for us. We made some technical and tactical mistakes which shouldn't have happened. While some boxers made silly mistakes like letting their guard down when the referee was separating the two boxers, or looked to defend at a time when you should be counter-attacking. I won't name the boxer but in Liverpool, he was looking at the referee when the bout was in full swing," men's head coach **Dharmendra Yadav** told **TOI** here on Monday.

Yadav, who was appointed the head coach ahead of the World Boxing Cup Brazil 2025, said every sport which goes through a transition needs time to produce results. "Now, the younger generation has taken over. Hitesh Gulia, Jadumani Singh, Sumit and others have proved themselves. All these young boxers are a work in progress. They are in their learning phase but are exceptionally talented.Here, at the WBC Finals, our male boxers are proving themselves. They have ensured medals, which is a huge accomplishment." he said.

Bartwal stuns WC champion

Gulia Edges Past Asian Games Gold Medallist

Sabi.Hussain
@timesofindia.com

Greater Noida: Pawan Bartwal and Hitesh Gulia's quarterfinal bouts stole the limelight on the second day of the World Boxing Cup (WBC) Finals here. The two Services pugilists claimed sensational wins over their fancied rivals to ensure the hosts completed a perfect medal sweep across both sessions. Bartwal outclassed World Boxing Cup Brazil gold medallist Altynbek Nursultan of Kazakhstan in the men's 55kg, while Gulia edged out two-time Olympian and Hangzhou 2023 Asian Games gold medallist Sewon Okazawa of Japan by a 3:2 split decision. Their victories, along with strong wins by Sumit (75kg), Naveen Kumar (90kg) and Jadumani Singh (50kg) confirmed the Indian male boxers' progress to the semifinals, which guaranteed them a medal finish.

WBC FINALS

PTI

TAKE THAT: India's Sumit (in blue) lands a punch on South Korea's Kim Hyeontae

The tournament's two biggest results underscored India's dominance across both the men's and women's sections, with the home boxers yet to suffer a defeat in the season-ending competition. The 26-year-old Bartwal, who hails from Syupuri village in Uttarakhand, demonstrated impressive tactical maturity and ring control. He waited for his moment before landing sharp punches on his Kazakh opponent, repeatedly pushing Nursultan – the second seed in the weight category – to the ropes and exploiting clean openings with effective defence.

"Nursultan is a good boxer. He was a champion at the Brazil World Cup. I was nervous at the beginning, but this tournament is taking place in our country, in front of our crowd and that gave me confidence. This is my first international medal and I am extremely proud," said Bartwal after his bout.

The evening's marquee bout between Gulia and Okazawa lived up to its billing, with both men engaging in fine bob-and-weave moves and maintaining tight defence. A powerful hook from Gulia late in the second round gave him the edge, and although Okazawa rallied aggressively in the third, the home favourite's clean work in the first two rounds proved decisive.

Earlier, Sumit delivered an assured 5:0 victory over South Korea's Kim Hyeon-tae in the 75kg quarterfinals.

Rajasthan batters pile on Delhi bowlers' misery

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Delhi bowlers endured a thankless grind as Rajasthan batters feasted on a benign surface on the second day of the Elite Group 'D' encounter in Nathdwara on Monday. After making merry, Rajasthan declared their innings at 570 for seven.

At stumps, Delhi were eight without loss. Having seen opener Sachin Yadav and wicketkeeper-batter Kunal Singh Rathore notch up hundreds on the opening day, it was skipper Mahipal Lomror and Kartik Sharma's turn to cash in on Day 2. The captain scored his ninth first-class century, an unbeaten 128 .

His 21-year-old partner struck 120 (154b, 5x4, 9x6), his second ton of the season.

Smaran hits double ton

Promising Ravichandran Smaran hit an unbeaten 227, his second double ton of the season, to help Karnataka pile up 547 for eight in their Group 'B' match against Chandigarh at Hubli . At stumps, Chandigarh were struggling at 72 for four.

Ranji: Key Scores

Group A In Coimbatore: TN 455 vs Uttar Pradesh 87/1.
In Nagpur: Vidarbha 169 & 126/3 vs Baroda 166.
Group B In Hubli: Karnataka 547/8 decl in 160 overs (Ravichandran Smaran 227, Karun Nair 95) vs Chandigarh 72/4.
In New Chandigarh: Maharashtra 350 vs Punjab 124/5.
In Indore: Kerala 281 vs MP 155/6.
Group C In Kalyani: Assam 200 vs Bengal 267/4.
In Rohtak: Services 205 and 122/4 vs Haryana 111(Ankit Kumar 32; Amit Shukla 8/27).
In Dehradun: Gujarat 324/8 decl 5/0 vs Uttarakhand 272.
Group D In Nathdwara: Rajasthan 570/7 decl (Sachin Yadav 130, Mahipal Lomror 128, Kartik Sharma 120, Kunal Singh Rathore 102) vs Delhi 8/0.
In Mumbai: Mumbai 630/5 vs Pondicherry 43/4.
In Jammu: J&K 170 & 275/4 vs Hyderabad 121.

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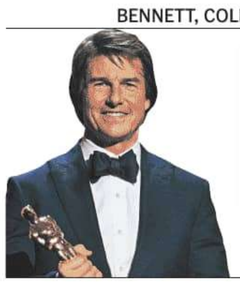

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TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025

PREDICTION IS VERY DIFFICULT, ESPECIALLY ABOUT THE FUTURE — NIELS BOHR

PAUL McCARTNEY RECORDS A SILENT TRACK AS PART OF MUSIC INDUSTRY'S PROTEST AGAINST 'THEFT' BY AI FIRMS

SINGAPORE COURT SENTENCES AN AUSTRALIAN MAN TO 9 DAYS' JAIL FOR GRABBING ACTOR ARIANA GRANDE AT A MOVIE PREMIERE

Hasina: Verdict Biased, Politically Motivated

Calls Tribunal Rigged, Presided Over By An Unelected Govt

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: Former Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina was on Monday sentenced to death in absentia by a tribunal for "crimes against humanity" over her govt's crackdown on a "nationwide mass uprising" last year that led to her ouster. She was accused of crimes such as murder, attempted murder and torture, and other inhumane acts as well as ordering the use of lethal weapons, helicopters and drones to subdue protesters.

The Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal's (ICT) verdict, which came months before the parliamentary election, described Hasina, 78, as the "mastermind and principal architect" of the violent repression that killed hundreds of protesters, including students. Hasina, whose Awami League has been barred from contesting the poll scheduled to be held in Feb, fled to India in Aug 5 last year amid the unrest.

In a statement, Hasina described the ICT as a "rigged tribunal established and presided over by an unelected govt with no democratic mandate", referring to the Muhammad Yunus-led interim govt. The judgment is "biased and politically motivated" and "in their distasteful call for death penalty, they reveal the brazen and murderous intent of extremist figures within the interim govt to remove Bangladesh's last elected PM and nullify Awami League as a political force," Hasina said.

The ICT also handed death sentence to her close aide and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal on similar charges. The third accused in the case and former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who testified as a state witness, was sentenced to five years in prison.

Hasina said the charges were unjustified, arguing that she and Khan "acted in good faith and were trying to minimise the loss of life. We lost control of the situation, but to characterise what happened as a premeditated assault on citizens is simply to misread the facts."

Her Awami League party called for a national shutdown on Tuesday to protest the verdict. Hasina cannot appeal the verdict unless she surrenders or is arrested within 30 days of the judgment.

The three-member tribunal, headed by chairman Justice Md Golam Mortuza Majumder, began delivering the verdict around 12.30pm, which was broadcast on state-owned BTV. Some of those in the packed courtroom cheered when Hasina was sentenced to death. He admonished them. In a statement, Yunus said the verdict offered justice to those who were harmed in the uprising: "No one, regardless of power, is above the law." The BNP, headed by former PM Khaleda Zia, hailed the verdict. In a message to AP, Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed said the "verdict is a joke and meaningless."

With inputs from AP

AFP

Security personnel guard the residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dhaka on Monday

Security personnel use batons, tear gas to disperse protesters near Mujibur house

Security agencies used batons and fired tear gas on Monday to disperse protesters who tried to demolish the house of ex-PM Sheikh Hasina's father and Bangladesh's founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dhaka. "Several sound grenades were used to disperse the protesters," Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of Ramna division police, was quoted as saying by the Daily Star newspaper. The paper reported that several protesters and security personnel were injured during the baton-charge and brick-hurling clashes. A large part of Rahman's private residence was levelled following the ouster of the Hasina last year. On Monday, a large group of protesters tried to move two excavators towards Dhanmondi 32, where Rahman's house is located. They were stopped by security personnel, who used batons to disperse protesters, the paper said. Some protesters regrouped on Panthapath, where law enforcers fired several rounds of tear gas. PTI

HOW HASINA HAD A GREAT FALL

A Bangladesh court sentenced ousted PM Sheikh Hasina to death on Monday, concluding a months-long trial that found her guilty of ordering a deadly crackdown on a student-led uprising last year. A look at the key events:

Photos: AFP, ANI

WHAT HAPPENED

Protesters led by the 'Students Against Discrimination' group initially wanted quotas in public sector jobs but the movement escalated in July 2024 as they demanded Hasina's resignation and clashed with security forces and supporters of her Awami League party. Protesters blamed the govt for a crackdown that killed hundreds of people

Police fire sound grenade to disperse demonstrators in Dhaka on Monday; security personnel scuffle with a protester in Dhaka

HOW IT UNFOLDED

July 2024 | Protests led by students demanding reforms in quota system turn violent

Aug 5 | Unrest peaks, Hasina flees to India as protesters storm her official residence

Aug 8 | Interim govt under Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus takes charge

Aug 14 | Govt says those behind killings of protesters will face action

Oct | Govt reconstitutes International Crimes Tribunal – Bangladesh (ICT-BD) to probe killings

Oct 17 | ICT-BD issues arrest warrants against Hasina and 45 others for alleged crimes against humanity

Feb 2025 | UN body claims 1,400 killed in July uprising

June 1 | Trial opens, prosecutor claims coordinated violence against civilians

July 2 | Hasina given six months' imprisonment for contempt of court

July 10 | ICT formally indicts Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun on five counts of crimes against humanity

Aug 3 | Tribunal commences the trial of Hasina in absentia and her two aides

Oct | Tribunal concludes hearing, sets Nov 17 to announce the verdict

Nov 17 | Tribunal convicts all 3. Hasina and Kamal get death penalty, police ex-chief gets 5-year imprisonment

MAGA mutiny forces Trump turnaround on release of Epstein files

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: In a sudden turnaround, US President Donald Trump on Sunday reversed course on one of the most divisive issues of his second term, allowing his loyalist lawmakers to vote to release long-withheld justice department files on the sex offender Jeffrey Epstein amid a mutiny in the ranks. "It's a Democrat Hoax for purposes of deflection, just like the Russia, Russia, Russia Scam!!! They had sleazy relationships with Epstein, and should be prosecuted!!!" Trump said in a social media post, reframing a controversy that appeared to have implicated him and put him on the defensive.

The turnaround was apparently precipitated by a brewing revolt among Trump's MAGA faithful, including three female lawmakers, who had grown increasingly incensed over perceived betrayals on a promise central to his 2024 campaign. Trump had pledged during campaign rallies to "expose the Epstein files" and drain the political swamp of purported paedophiles, a vow that resonated with his conspiracy-minded supporters convinced the documents implicated Democrats like Bill Clinton and elites like Bill Gates.

Yet, upon re-entering the White House, his administration stonewalled, citing national security and ongoing reviews. By mid-Nov, frustration boiled over and a House Oversight Committee dump of 23,000 pages of Epstein's emails on Nov 10 — many mentioning Trump's Mar-a-Lago parties and his quip that Epstein liked "beautiful women... on the younger side"— ignited a firestorm. Both Democrats and MAGA influencers accused the president of a cover-up and demanded the complete files be released.

In fiery social media posts, Trump directly targeted former President Bill Clinton (who flew on Epstein's jet 26 times), Obama-era official Larry Summers (who emailed Epstein post-conviction about Harvard donations), and Democratic mega donor and LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman (who regretted fundraising with Epstein in 2015). "This is another Russia Hoax — all arrows point to the Democrats. They spent their lives with Epstein on his Island. Stay tuned!!!" Trump thundered, while also implicating the banking giant JPMorgan Chase for allegedly enabling Epstein's finances.

Democrats cried foul, accusing Trump of weaponising the justice department against foes even as attorney general Pam Bondi complied with the president's orders to investigate Democrats. House minority leader Hakeem Jeffries called it "retaliatory theatre" to "distract from Trump's own Epstein emails, suggesting he (Trump) "knew about the girls." The MAGA base wasn't impressed either with Trump's tactics.

The revolt crystallised in a bipartisan discharge petition spearheaded by Republican Congressman Thomas Massie, a Trump critic from Kentucky, which by the weekend had garnered 218 signatures — enough to force a floor vote as early as Tuesday.

Faced with the spectre of a humiliating House defeat, with potentially 50+ defections from the Republican side, Trump blinked on Sunday. His pivot reframes the vote as a Republican triumph, but sceptics see it as damage control. If passed, the measure would compel release of the files within 30 days, subject to a Senate vote before it goes to the president for his signature. Trump could veto it though aides have indicated he won't.

Reuters

'ALL ARROWS POINT TO DEMS'

Trump may've talks with Maduro as aircraft carrier arrives in Caribbean

President Donald Trump said Sunday the US "may be having some discussions" with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, a potential diplomatic avenue as the US further builds up its military presence near the South American country with the arrival of its most advanced aircraft carrier. Trump didn't offer details about the possible discussions with Maduro, but he said "Venezuela would like to talk." When asked Sunday what he meant when he said Maduro wants to talk, Trump simply said: "What does it mean? You tell me, I don't know." "I'll talk to anybody," he added a few moments later. "We'll see what happens." Venezuela's govt didn't immediately reply to a request for comment. Maduro, who faces charges of narcoterrorism in the US, has said the US govt is "fabricating" a war against him. AP

2013 treaty with Dhaka states extradition can be refused if offence for which it is sought is of a political character

▶Continued from P 1

The Indian govt has so far only acknowledged the interim govt's call for Hasina's extradition, while remaining non-committal on what it proposes to do about it. That has been its position since Dec last year, when Dhaka officially sought her extradition. It's unlikely to comply with any such request in haste now.

The 2013 extradition treaty with Dhaka in any case may provide immunity to Hasina from any political witch hunt. Article 6 of the treaty states that extradition can be refused if the offence for which it is requested is of a political character. While Dhaka will argue that the same article excludes murder from the list of such offences, Article 8 also states that a person may not be extradited if s/he can convince the requested state that the accusations were not made in good faith "in the interests of justice".

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL — SANDEEP ADHWARYU

In short, extradition would be a complex and long-drawn-out process and, for India, entail both legal commitments and geopolitical considerations. The sentencing will likely only add another layer of complexity to Hasina's case. As an aspiring great power, India would not like to be seen as giving up on a long-time ally who remained attuned to India's economic and security interests, not least by keeping in check radical Islamists. Abandoning Hasina would also not just demoralise Hasina's party Awami League, which is facing a ban from participating in the upcoming national elections, but also energise radical anti-India forces.

The unelected interim govt has also done little to assuage India's concerns about increasing radicalisation and safety and security of minority communities. New Delhi also knows that Dhaka's ongoing efforts to revive the relationship with Islamabad can act as a real conundrum for India soon, even as it engages the interim govt by hosting the Bangladesh NSA for a security conclave this week.

More than the fate of Hasina, perhaps, India will be concerned about what the verdict might mean for Awami League as it seeks free, fair and inclusive polls in the country. Hasina told **TOI** last week that the ban came from an unelected cadre that seized power and now wanted to take its political opponents out of the game.

"It was Awami League that introduced key reforms to ensure transparency and fairness, including the use of photo-based voter lists, see-through ballot boxes, and the establishment of an independent election commission. There is an irony that the only party which ensured free elections is now barred from participating," she said. For India too, it's imperative that Awami League be allowed to contest elections that are genuinely fair and inclusive.

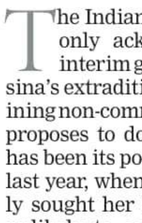
UN says 'regrets' death penalty ordered for ex-PM

Geneva: The UN said on Monday that former Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina's sentencing marked "an important moment for victims", but she should not have been sentenced to death. The UN rights office, which determined in a report in Feb that Bangladesh's former govt was behind systematic attacks, welcomed that verdicts had been reached.

Since publishing the report, "we have been calling for perpetrators to be held accountable in accordance with international standards", rights office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said. However, she stressed that the office had also "advocated for all proceedings to unquestionably meet international standards of fair trial". "This is vital when, as was the case here, the trials have been conducted in absentia and led to a capital punishment sentence." "We ... regret the imposition of the death penalty, which we oppose in all circumstances." she added. AFP

Jeff Bezos creates AI start-up where he'll be co-CEO

Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon and one of the world's wealthiest people, is throwing his money and time into an artificial intelligence start-up that he will manage as its co-chief executive. The company, called Project Prometheus, is coming out of the gates with $6.2 billion in funding, partly from Bezos, making it one of the most well-financed early-stage start-ups in the world, said three people familiar with the company who spoke on condition of anonymity because details have not been made public.



Bezos' co-founder and co-chief executive is Vik Bajaj, a physicist and chemist who worked closely with Google's co-founder Sergey Brin at Google's X. This is the first time Bezos has taken an operational role in a company since he quit as Amazon CEO in 2021. NYT

'Closing Louvre gallery as structure now weak'

The Louvre Museum said Monday that it was closing one of its galleries after an audit revealed structural weaknesses in some of the beams in the building. The Campana Gallery, which hosts ancient Greek ceramics, will be closed while investigations are conducted into "the particular weakness of certain beams supporting the second floor", it said. AFP

UK announces visa ban on countries that refuse to take back citizens being deported

Naomi Canton

London: PoK-origin UK home secretary Shabana Mahmood announced Monday that Trump-style visa bans will be imposed on countries unless they accept the return of their criminals and illegal immigrants, as she revealed further sweeping reforms to tackle illegal immigration.

The first countries to face such a ban are Angola, Namibia and the Democratic Republic of Congo whose nationals will no longer be granted UK visas unless their govts rapidly improve cooperation on removals. "These countries face penalties for their unacceptably low co-operation and obstructive returns processes. Thousands of illegal migrants and criminals from these nations are currently in the UK," the home office said.

Non-cooperation includes embassies failing to process removals paperwork in time and requiring individuals to sign their own documentation — allowing them to block their own deportation.

India is thought to be one of several other countries most resistant to taking back illegal migrants and could join the list over the coming year, the Times (UK) reported. Human rights laws will also be overhauled to scale up deportations and prevent migrants from "gaming the system".

UK's govt will legislate to reform how Article 8 (the right to family and private life) is interpreted by the courts to make clear a family connection means immediate family, such as a parent or child — blocking people from using dubious connections to stay in the UK. It will also work with partners at the Council of Europe to address the "over-expansive application" of Article 3 (protection against inhuman and degrading treatments) which migrants are also using to block their removal and introduce new legislation to crack down on "migrants making last-minute bogus modern slavery claims". Migrants will be restricted to arguing all legal grounds within a single appeal and, if they lose, they will be forced to leave.

AFP

UK's home office led by Shabana Mahmood (in pic) said the first countries to face such a ban are Angola, Namibia and the Democratic Republic of Congo

New capped work and study routes for genuine refugees will be created who will be referred through partners such as the UNHCR. British people will be encouraged to house them, as they have done for Ukrainians, to end the reliance on asylum hotels, which cost £2.1 billion in 2024-2025.

In the year ending June 2025 a total of 5,475 Indian nationals claimed asylum in the UK making them the sixth-largest nationality. Of these, 346 Indians arrived by small boat illegally. The other Indians were mostly on visas, with student visas being the most common. The top nationality to claim asylum was Pakistani; followed by nationals from Afghanistan, Iran, Eritrea and Bangladesh.

Only 20 Indians were granted asylum in the year ending June 2025, and 2,691 had their claims refused.

Gunmen abduct 25 girls from a Nigerian school

Abuja: Gunmen attacked a high school in northwestern Nigeria before dawn on Monday, abducting 25 schoolgirls, killing one staffer and injuring another, police said of the latest abduction of students in the region. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the abductions from the boarding school and their motivation is unclear. Those bandits are not connected to militant groups such as Boko Haram and the splinter group Islamic State West Africa Province, whose attacks on communities are motivated by religion.

Police said the boarding school girls were taken from their dorms at 4am Monday. The school is in Maga, in the state's Danko-Wasagu area, police spokesperson Nafi'u Abubakar Kotarkoshi said. The assailants were armed with "sophisticated weapons" and exchanged fire with guards, Kotarkoshi said. AP

France agrees to sell up to 100 fighter jets to Ukraine

Kyiv: France pledged Monday to sell up to 100 Rafale fighter jets to Ukraine in a show of European support as the Trump administration has limited its military backing for the country. The agreement, which includes a range of French defence equipment in addition to the warplanes, will have a limited immediate effect on Ukraine's war against Russia. The timeline for delivering the systems extends to 2035.

AFP

Zelensky and Macron sign an agreement at an air base near Paris

But the deal, which came weeks after Sweden agreed to sell up to 150 fighter jets to Ukraine, signalled a determination by Europe to help defend Ukraine against long-term threats from Russia.

President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, who was in France to meet with the French president Monday, said that the agreement was "truly historic for both our nations."

French President Emmanuel Macron called the deal an important step toward bringing the French and Ukrainian defence industries closer together as Ukraine's sovereignty is challenged by Russia's "imperialist and, frankly, neocolonialist instincts." "Ukraine belongs to the European family," Macron said. The agreement is deliberately spread over a 10-year window, France said, to provide lasting support for Ukraine and to space out the financing, some of which is intended to be covered by European programs.

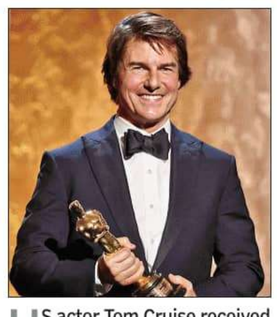
The deal includes air-defence equipment, air-to-air missiles and bombs, along with joint defence-sector projects set to begin this year. The nations will also work on producing interceptor drones together.

Romania evacuates 2 villages

Romanian authorities said Monday they had evacuated two villages near Ukrainian border, after a Russian attack in Ukraine set fire to a ship carrying LPG. NYT & AGENCIES

DAILY PLANET

Tom Cruise gets his Oscar moment with a lifetime achievement trophy



US actor Tom Cruise received an honorary Oscar on Sunday evening, the first golden statue of his decades-long career. To the sound of the "Mission Impossible" theme tune, a hallmark of the 63-year-old actor's career, Cruise took to the stage at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles to applause from peers including Colin Farrell and Emilio Estevez, with whom he has shared the screen, and Steven Spielberg, who directed him in "Minority Report" and "War of the Worlds." Cruise, a four-time Oscar nominee, has never won the award and spoke of his love for cinema in his speech. He praised the big screen as a place that sparks "a hunger for adventure, a hunger for knowledge, a hunger to understand humanity, to create characters, to tell a story, to see the world."

To boost weddings, China offers cash vouchers

The eastern Chinese city of Ningbo will issue marriage consumption vouchers for couples who register their marriage till Dec 31, as authorities ramp up efforts to encourage young couples to wed and have children. Marriages in China plummeted by a fifth last year, the biggest drop on record. Declining interest in getting married and starting a family has long been blamed on the high cost of childcare. Newly-weds can receive eight marriage consumption vouchers, worth a total of $141, Ningbo's civil affairs department said on its official Wechat at the end of Oct. Vouchers can be spent on wedding photography, ceremonies, celebrations, hotel accommodation, retail and other marriage related sectors, the statement said. AP

CAST IN STONE: 'Bridget Jones' has joined Harry Potter, Mary Poppins, and Paddington as permanent residents of London's famed Leicester Square. A new bronze statue of the romantic comedy heroine was unveiled Monday to mark 25 years since the release of the first 'Bridget Jones' film. Renee Zellweger, who has played the titular character four times, attended the unveiling

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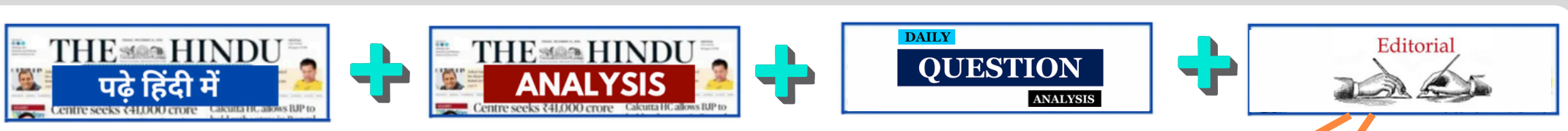

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